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LANG'S
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MANUAL.





In Memory of
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BY THE SAME AUTHOR.

In the Press, and speedily will be published,

AN HISTORICAL AND STATISTICAL ACCOUNT OF NEW SOUTH WALES; including a Visit to the Gold Regions, and a Description of the Mines. With an Estimate of the probable Results—social, moral, and political—of the great discovery. 2 vols. post 8vo.

FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE FOR THE GOLDEN LANDS OF AUSTRALIA; the Right of the Colonies, and the Interest of Britain and of the World. 1 vol. 8vo.

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THE
AUSTRALIAN
EMIGRANT'S MANUAL;

OR,

A Guide to the Gold Colonies

OF

NEW SOUTH WALES AND PORT PHILLIP.

BY JOHN DUNMORE LANG, D.D.

*Recently one of the Members of the Legislative Council of New South
Wales, for the City of Sydney, and formerly one of the Members
for Port Phillip.*



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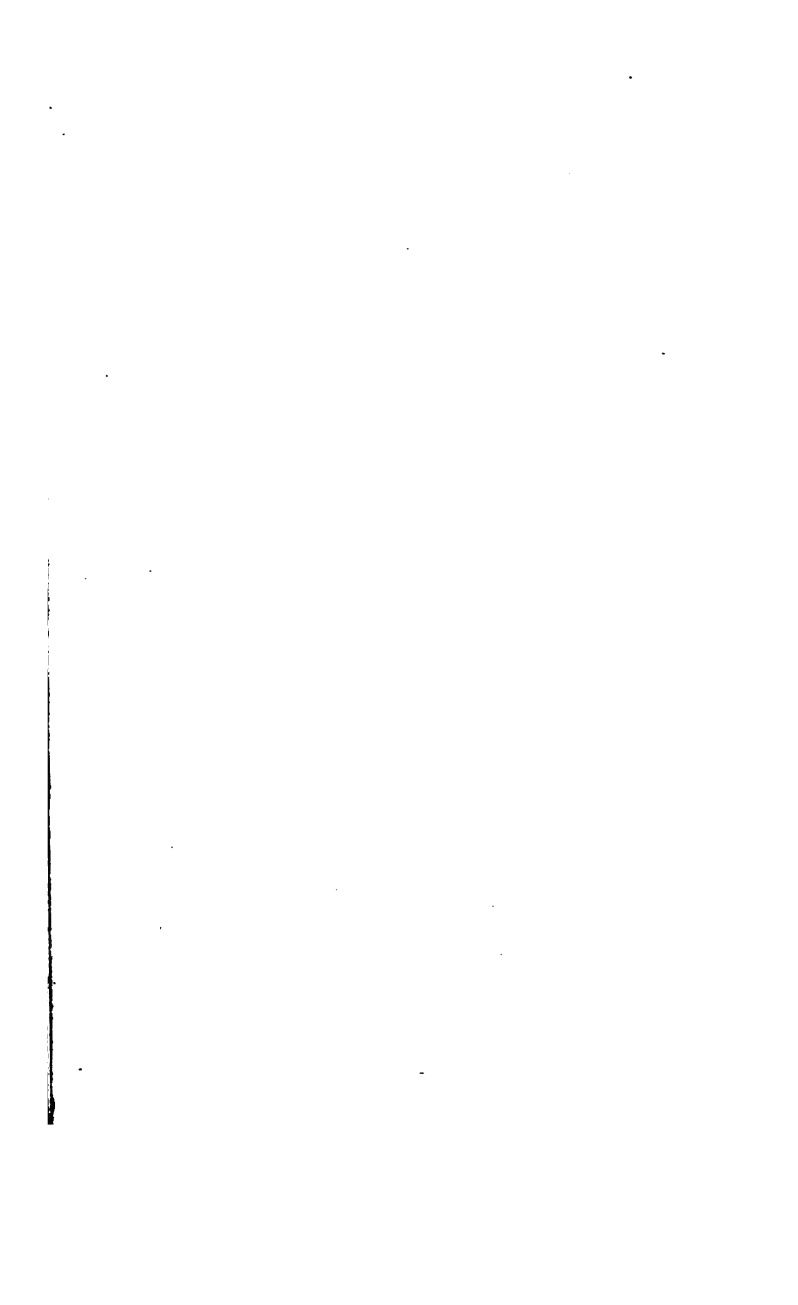
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INTRODUCTION.

THE discovery of gold in Australia is decidedly the great event of the present age—the most important, and at the same time, the most beneficial both for Great Britain and for the Australian colonies, that has ever occurred. It is scarcely possible, indeed, to imagine any event that could have been productive of greater or more extensive benefit to all classes throughout this vast empire, than is likely to flow from this discovery. And, viewing it in this light, it is impossible to ascribe it to any other origin than the Divine beneficence.

For example—the emigration to Australia, which is now in progress, is already diminishing the enormous competition that has so long prevailed in this country, in every branch of business, and in all grades and professions—a competition so unnatural, and, at the same time, so harassing and distressing, that increasing numbers of all classes have for many years past found it a matter of the utmost difficulty to obtain a comfortable living in the rank of life in which they had been brought up. But the emigration originating in the gold discovery has been sensibly diminishing this competition, in numberless instances

for months past, to the great benefit of the mother country. To suppose a case—of which there are hundreds of instances in all branches of business, and in all parts of the United Kingdom—if two drapers sell off, and emigrate to Australia, from some small town, in which there are six of the trade, and business only for four, times will surely be much better with the four who remain, after the others are gone. And so with every branch of business in the country. They are all sending off their supernumeraries—those who can easily be spared.

Besides, the emigration to the gold fields is diminishing pauperism also, by carrying off the supernumerary labourers in every department of labour, and allowing “a fair day’s wages, for a fair day’s work,” for those who remain behind. And, as the late celebrated William Cobbett informs us, that “poverty and misery have in all ages and countries been the prolific source of crime,” it is also diminishing crime by improving the general condition of the people, and by thereby removing its cause and drying up its source.

But the discovery of gold in Australia is not only benefiting the mother country, in this *negative* way, by diminishing the three great national evils of enormous competition, wide-spread pauperism, and the recently alarming prevalence and increase of crime; it is conferring upon her *positive* benefits and blessings of a most important description, by stimulating and increasing her trade to an unprecedented degree, and thereby augmenting her national wealth, and promoting and extending her general prosperity.

The Great Exhibition of the past year in London did nothing for this country, in comparison with what the Great Exhibition of the past year at the gold fields in Australia is now doing, and will in all likelihood continue to do, for half a century to come.

But the gold discovery is conferring benefits of still greater importance upon Australia herself. It is giving her the very thing she wanted most, but could never get before, either of the right kind, or to anything like the extent required—I mean population—and not population merely, but a highly intelligent, enterprising, energetic, British Protestant population. When the writer left Australia, on a former visit to this country, in the year 1846, the Australian colonists were everywhere slaughtering and boiling down, for their tallow alone, myriads of sheep and cattle; because there were not mouths enough in the country to consume the food which God had created for the use of man: and when he arrived in England—mark the contrast!—myriads of people were dying of absolute starvation in Ireland, while ships, that might easily have been filled with emigrants in thousands, were actually rotting in our harbours! But when neither the tidings of this enormous waste, on the one hand, nor of this frightful want, on the other, could move our late rulers to discharge their obvious duty in the case, by promoting an extensive emigration to Australia, Divine Providence at length interfered, by taking the work of colonizing that country into its own hands; causing it to be written in letters of gold on the mountains of Australia, “This land shall be inhabited,” and stimulating thousands and tens of

thousands, from all parts of the civilized world, to go forth to that land of promise to fulfil this beneficent design of the good providence of God.

But Australia will not only get population from the gold discovery—and population, too, of a right kind—she will also get political freedom, just because that population *is* of the right kind to ensure it. As far as the government of the Australian colonies is concerned, the age of *shams* is now fast drawing to a close—the days of Downing Street are well nigh ended. In a few years hence people will scarcely believe it possible that such a monstrosity could have existed in the middle of the nineteenth century, as that large and intelligent communities, at the ends of the earth, were actually governed, and their weal or woe determined in ten thousand particulars, by the fiat of a few obscure clerks, in the upper rooms of a gloomy brick house in one of the narrow streets of London ! This melancholy matter of fact, as it has hitherto been, and still is, will then be a mere matter of history, like the reign of Louis Philippe or of Henry the Eighth.

But Australia will not only get population and political freedom from the discovery of gold in her territory, she will also get national independence. This is the general opinion, as it is now the general desire, of the colonists themselves. For Earl Grey's notorious misgovernment of the Australian colonies, during his late tenure of office for five years and a half, and his persisting to the last in forcing the continuance of the transportation system on the colony of Van Dieman's Land, in the face of the remonstrances

and petitions of all the neighbouring colonies, as well as of the unfortunate and oppressed inhabitants of that beautiful island—a course of insane and suicidal policy which the present government is still following up—these proceedings, on the part of the home authorities, have aroused the colonists universally to a sense of their political rights, and inspired them with a strong desire for their freedom and independence; as the following extract from one of the latest papers received from Australia, viz. : *The Empire*, of date, *Sydney, New South Wales*, 6th May, 1852, will clearly show :—

“ It will be remembered that, some two years ago, a League was talked of, in certain quarters, for the whole of the Australian colonies, by which they were to be ushered into birth as one nation, having its prospective independence in view. The idea was borrowed from the constitution of the provinces which subsequently became the Thirteen United States of America. To this scheme, no one is ignorant, there were loud objections, attended with opprobrium. Strange to say, that very idea, then so offensive to some people, is now familiar to all ears,—runs through public meetings like an electric stream, and that without the remotest agency or influence of the party who first struck out the spark, only, as it appeared, to see it quenched. The spark has been struck out again by the hand of Government—the Imperial Government chiefly. To change the figure—a charmed wand has been employed by our very Government to reveal objects in new and wondrous shapes. We have learned, by the aid of this talisman, in two years, not

only to tolerate the idea of the monster of frightful mien, but to think of him as a possibly pleasant companion. We do not positively wish for his presence, but we will vastly prefer him to the Giant Convictism. 'We will have independence of England, rather than convictism,'—this is in every mouth not sold to sycophancy."

Independently, however, of the change of opinion which the procedure of the Home Government, in the matter of convictism in the case of Van Dieman's Land, had wrought in the minds of the Australian colonists generally on this important subject, it was anticipated by intelligent colonists of all classes, that the natural effect of the gold discovery would be, to give entire political freedom and national independence to the Australian colonies. The usual language in which the effect of the discovery was spoken of on the spot was—"It will advance the colonies in their history and progress, as compared with their recent condition, half a century: *it will precipitate them into a nation.*"

And why should such a consummation be either deprecated, or prevented by Great Britain? Will she lose a sixpence by it, if it should take place quietly and peacefully, as it ought? On the contrary, she will gain immensely, from the prodigious impulse which the freedom and independence of Australia would give to trade of every kind and in every direction; from the rapid development of the vast resources of the colonies which it would stimulate and ensure; and from the greatly-increased comfort, happiness, and wealth which the colonists would derive from the mere fact of being governed by the ablest and best

men from among themselves, instead of having their best and dearest interests at the mercy of a few officials in Downing Street—whether Whigs, Tories, or Radicals, is all one to them—who know comparatively nothing of their circumstances and affairs, and who have no interest in promoting their welfare.

Besides, this is not merely a question of expediency—it is a question of right. Communities, of the character of colonies, have, like men individually, right, by the Law of Nature and the Ordinance of God, to the entire management of their own affairs, when they attain their majority; that is, when they are both able and willing to govern themselves without either assistance or protection from the parent state. Now, the Australian colonies *have* attained their majority: they require neither assistance nor protection of any kind from Great Britain. All they require is to be let alone—to govern themselves as they best can—and if this is only allowed them peacefully and quietly, as becomes a professedly Christian people like the British nation, in dealing with those who have precisely the same right to their entire freedom and national independence as they have themselves, the Australian communities will be the best friends and most valuable customers, for all time coming, that Great Britain has ever had since she was a nation. The Australian colonists honour Her Majesty Queen Victoria; they love their native land; and they will never cease to pray for the peace and prosperity of both: but as British colonists, at the ends of the earth, who have attained their political majority, and are both able and willing to govern themselves, God

and Nature have implanted in their breasts a strong, growing, and irrepressible desire for entire self-government, for complete political freedom, for national independence; and as this desire has, doubtless, been so implanted that it might be gratified, they cannot but regard the gold discovery as tantamount to a proclamation from the God of Heaven, that it *will* be gratified very shortly.

The prospects of Australia, as the seat of a great nation, of thoroughly British origin—the great future Power of the Southern Hemisphere—are splendid and animating in the highest degree. Supposing the present colonies of Eastern Australia to be combined together, as they probably will be ere long, in one great federation, this rising Power would, in all likelihood, exercise its beneficent dominion over upwards of forty degrees of latitude, from the South Cape of Van Dieman's Land to the Equator—spreading the noble language, the equitable laws, the free institutions, and the Protestant religion of Britain far and wide in the southern and eastern world; and comprehending within its ample domain the islands of New Zealand, New Caledonia, and New Guinea, and numerous other islands yet unknown in the Western Pacific; while its invitation to the teeming multitudes of Great Britain and Ireland would ever be, “Come, and welcome!” Jonathan himself has scarcely a more brilliant prospect before him than the one which is now opening up for Australia; and there is this in favour of the golden land of the South, that Australia will have no black bend of slavery on her fair escutcheon.

To persons, therefore, of the requisite intelligence and energy, industry and economy, of all classes in the mother country, who find that their prospects at home are either dark or precarious, I would say, "Go, by all means, to Australia;" for as the emigration of persons of all classes will prove highly beneficial to the mother country, there is ample room and to spare for multitudes of all classes in the Australian colonies. Individuals may, doubtless, have considerable difficulty at first, till they find their proper level, and drop into their proper place in the colonies; but with the mental and moral qualities above-mentioned, there will be no reason for any to despair. If one door should be shut, another will open; if one employment should fail, a better result may be anticipated and realized in another.

To the industrious classes, generally, the prospect in the Australian colonies is in the highest degree favourable. The creation of an unlimited amount of wealth in these colonies, from a source altogether unexpected before, will give a prodigious impulse to trade of every kind, and create an unlimited demand for labour in every department. It is the industrious classes, indeed, that will experience the greatest change for the better, by emigrating to Australia, and it is for them chiefly that this Manual is intended—to supply them with the requisite information as to the state and circumstances of the countries to which they are going, and to afford them such direction as will be needful for their guidance on their arrival.

While I might, therefore, with all propriety remind the multitudes of all classes, who are now emigrating

to Australia, that they are going to that distant land to assist in laying the broad and deep foundations of what will ere long be one of the mightiest empires upon earth, I would simply say to all who possess the mental and moral qualities I have indicated, "Go where comfort and a moderate independence await the honest and persevering exertions of every prudent and industrious man." Such persons are sure to rise in the social scale in the Australian colonies, as compared with their position and means of influence at home. For although we have had people enough in times past, under our wretched system of government in these colonies, who would gladly have raised themselves into the position of a colonial aristocracy, with rank and titles to authorize them to keep down all classes around them, the prospects of these aspirants have been sadly blighted of late by the levelling and equalizing tendencies of the gold discovery; and there is now no part of the world in which it is more true than it is at this moment in Australia, that

"A man's a man for a' that."

THE
EMIGRANT'S MANUAL;

OR,

A GUIDE TO AUSTRALIA, &c.

THE WAY OUT.

WHEN so many first-class ships are sailing for Australia, from all parts of the United Kingdom, it will not be necessary to say much about what port the emigrant should sail from; what ship he should go by; and what rate of passage money he will have to pay. The cost of passage is pretty much the same all over the three kingdoms, varying at present from £18 to £25. The emigrant should suit his own convenience as to the port to sail from, and he ought, by all means, when treating for a passage, to go to a respectable and established house; as such a house will not, for its own sake, send an inferior vessel to sea on such a voyage, or supply it insufficiently. The Government scale of provisions is generally followed now in private ships—with slight additions occasionally—and it is quite sufficient for health and comfort; as every well-furnished ship has a certain allowance of medical comforts in addition, for the use of the sick. The emigrant should be furnished with a copy of the dietary scale, which, under the new Act of Parliament, is imperative, before embarking; and if he

has the means, he can easily add a few extra comforts for himself, especially if he is a married man with a family. There are ships fitted up with close cabins for families, on the uniform principle, as it is termed, every adult paying £25, and no second class. The ship I came home in—the Wandsworth, of Glasgow—was, after discharging her cargo in the London Docks, chartered by Messrs. Hall, Brothers, of London, and fitted out on that principle for Port Phillip, whither she sailed on the 4th of this month (Sept. 1852). I went on board, on the invitation of the captain, to see the ship when she was ready for sea, and was much pleased with the arrangements. They were remarkably suitable for respectable families of limited means : and, although the rate of passage is now considerably higher than it was for years before the gold discovery, it is still much lower than it used to be many years since. My father's family carried out with them a female servant to Sydney, in the year 1824, whose passage, in the steerage, cost £40. The best time for leaving this country is in the fall of the year, or in spring. The only dangerous part of the voyage is the English Channel ; for when a vessel is once fairly out at sea, there is, generally speaking, nothing to fear.

It is of little consequence at what season of the year an emigrant arrives in Australia, for the country is remarkably salubrious, and there are no acclimating fevers. Still, however, it is better, if it can be so arranged, for an emigrant to arrive in that country in the winter half year, as he will then be prepared for the greater heat of the summer when it comes. The summer months of this country are the winter months there. In general, there is both hot and cold weather on the voyage out, and the emigrant must make provision for both ; but he ought not to carry out with him much extra clothing of any kind ; and as to merchandize, unless he is going out to open a shop or a store, and is carrying his goods with him, he ought

on no account to lay out a single sixpence in the purchase of anything to sell in the colony. There are long-headed people enough there already, who know far better than an emigrant going out for the first time, what is likely to be in demand, and who order out a stock in time accordingly. I once advised an intending emigrant, who was going out to Australia with a capital of £1000, and who consulted me as to how he should carry out his money, not to expend one farthing of it in merchandize. But he preferred taking the advice of the captain, who had never been in Australia more than himself, and he accordingly invested the whole of his funds in goods. The result was, he lost upon everything, and was ruined.

WHERE AM I TO GO?

There are two colonies in Australia which have peculiar attractions for intending emigrants at the present moment; viz.: New South Wales and Port Phillip, the two great gold fields of that land of promise: and to enable the intending emigrant to judge for himself, as to which of these colonies he should steer his course for, I shall subjoin a short description of each, beginning with the nearest of the two to England, viz.:

PORT PHILLIP, OR THE COLONY OF VICTORIA.

Port Phillip, or the colony of Victoria, was merely an appendage or dependency of New South Wales, till the 1st of July, 1851, when it was at length constituted a separate and independent colony. It is situated at the south-eastern corner of the great island-continent of Australia. Port Phillip, properly so called, is a gulf of the sea, running due north, about forty miles into the land, from Bass's Straits, and throwing out an arm of about twenty miles in length to the westward. Melbourne, the capital of

the colony, is situated at the head of the gulf, and Geelong, the second town in Port Phillip, at the extremity of the western arm. The distance between the two towns is about fifty miles, and the journey can be made both by land and water. There are steamboats that ply to and fro daily. On the 1st of March, 1851, the population of Melbourne was above 23,000, and that of Geelong above 8,000; but both towns have since been greatly increased both in size and population, from the recent wonderful influx of people from the neighbouring colonies, as well as from the mother country and elsewhere. There are other three rising towns on the coast to the westward of Port Phillip, viz., Warnambool; Belfast, at Port Fairy; and Portland, at the Bay of the same name; besides several others of minor note in the interior. There are also settlements to the eastward of Port Phillip, at Western Port, and in Gippsland, where towns, which will ere long be important places for trade, are now in rapid formation.

The climate of Port Phillip is pretty much like that of the south of England—rather hotter in summer, and considerably milder in winter. The agricultural productions are quite the same as those of England—wheat and all other descriptions of European grain, potatoes, vegetables and fruits. The country is generally level, and although it is used at present almost exclusively for pastoral purposes,—grazing immense flocks of sheep and herds of cattle—there is a large proportion of it adapted in the highest degree for agriculture. Port Phillip can scarcely be said to have a single navigable river that can be turned to any account; but the level character of the country will afford wonderful facilities for the construction of cheap wooden railways, for which the native timber is remarkably well fitted. At present, communication to and from the capital is maintained by means of draught cattle—horses and oxen—exclusively.

Mount Alexander, the principal Gold Field of this colony, is situated about seventy-five miles from Melbourne in a north-westerly direction; and Bendigo Creek, another rich field, is about twenty-five miles farther. Ballarat, the first gold field discovered in Port Phillip, is situated near Buninyong, about fifty miles from Geelong, also in a north-westerly direction.

BUT WHAT SHALL I DO AT PORT PHILLIP? SHALL I GO TO THE DIGGINGS?

There are certain mawkish sentimentalists in this country—certain people who pretend to be a great deal better than everybody else—who strongly encourage emigration to Australia, but who endeavour to persuade the emigrant in a sort of whining tone by no means to go to the diggings, as if there were something morally wrong in going there! Now I should like to know where these wonderfully good people can find either reason or scripture for such advice. Are we not told in the word of God that *the earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof? The silver and the gold it contains are His*, for *He made it*, that is, the earth, and deposited these precious metals in it, as in a bank of deposit, thousands and perhaps tens of thousands of years ago, that they might be searched for and found, and drawn forth, and turned to account by intelligent, enterprising and energetic men. It is the peculiar character of the government of Him who is *Governor among the nations*, that *He does nothing in vain*; but He must necessarily have done something in vain, if there were anything either morally wrong or in any way reprehensible in going to the diggings. The question as to whether any person should or should not engage in the direct search for gold, is a question not of morals but of expediency, which every person to whom it is presented must decide for himself. No man is to be condemned merely because he thinks it his interest

to abandon his actual employment and betake himself to the gold mines, and who acts accordingly; neither is any man to be commended who thinks it his interest to continue in his ordinary employment, and who does so accordingly. There may be much worldly wisdom and prudence in the one case, and much folly and rashness in the other; but there is nothing inherently good or bad in either.

Considering the question then—*Shall I go to the diggings?*—as a mere question of worldly policy, which any person has a right to ask and answer for himself, I can see no harm whatever in a young man who emigrates to Australia trying his fortune at the gold mines: and if, as is very likely, with so great an influx of people, there may be no eligible situation open for him otherwise, he may have no alternative, and be obliged to go, whether willingly or not. But for the father of a family, carrying out his wife and children with him, to go to the diggings, would be very absurd. For as gold mining has always been, is still, and in all likelihood will ever be, a mere lottery, in which one draws a glittering prize, while several others draw blanks, it would be morally wrong for the father of a family, as well as utterly indefensible as a matter of common prudence, to make the subsistence and comfort of a whole household dependent on such a contingency. The yield of gold in Port Phillip has doubtless been extraordinary; the quantity exported up to the 22nd of May last, having been not less than 32 tons, 4 cwt. 2 qrs. 19 lbs. 8 oz., which, valued at 65s. per oz., is returned at £2,328,908. The value of the shipments from Sydney and Melbourne together, in the London market, is already estimated at £4,000,000; the mere licenses to dig for gold in both colonies having realized to the government not less than £120,250, up to the 31st of May last.

It must be recollected, however, that the number of people at the diggings in both colonies is very

great, and it takes a large sum to divide well among a multitude of people, so as to give every one a moderate share of it. It was estimated, for example, on the 1st of April last, that there were not fewer than 50,000 people at the Port Phillip mines, and the yield of gold at the time was ascertained to be about £100,000 in value every week. But this was only £2 a-week for each person; and as a considerable, perhaps a large number were getting much more than this average, it is evident that a still larger number must have been getting less. In these circumstances, the prudent man who can always turn his skill and labour to a noble account at such times in his ordinary employment, should weigh it well beforehand, whether he should throw away this certainty for the chance of drawing a prize at the diggings, when the probability is that he may only draw a blank. If he is a young man and has set his heart upon going to the mines, I would say, "Go, by all means; you can easily find your way back again, if unsuccessful;" but if the emigrant happens to be the father of a family and has a good business of his own, which he can turn to a much better account than at other times, I would say, "Go, if you will; but you will probably be a great fool if you do." Supposing then that the emigrant has settled this point with himself, either before his arrival, or as soon after it as possible, the first step in the process, whatever he determines on, is to get up to Melbourne.

MELBOURNE AND THE CITY OF TENTS.

Vessels from England come to anchor in Hobson's Bay, at the head of the gulf, about three miles from the town, in a direct line, but from seven to nine, up the Yarra Yarra river, by water. There is a small steamboat that plies regularly between the town and the bay, calling alongside of newly arrived vessels, to carry the passengers and their luggage up to town;

heavier goods of all kinds being forwarded by lighters. On getting up to the town, the first thing to be done is to look for lodgings; and if this was almost a hopeless task so long ago as in the month of April last, before there had been any arrivals from England, what must it be now, when 5000 a week have, for months past, been leaving the United Kingdoms, for the Australian colonies—the larger proportion for Port Phillip? It was stated by the colonial press, in April, that “the want of house accommodation is very seriously felt in Melbourne, and the most extravagant charges are made for very indifferent lodging. It is most difficult, indeed, to procure accommodation at any price.” Even then there were many living in tents around the town, and the number who will be living in this way now must be much greater. And as mechanical labour of all kinds will, under existing circumstances, be extravagantly high, it might not be imprudent for a family going out to engage in business in the town, to take a cottage in frame with them. I would have strongly dissuaded any person from doing so before the discovery of the gold fields, but the times are very much changed in this respect now. A tent may, doubtless, be a very tolerable sort of lodging during the summer half year, but it must be miserably cold and comfortless for a family in winter, as there are occasional falls of snow, even in Port Phillip, and a good deal of cold, bleak weather.

OFF TO THE DIGGINGS.

If the emigrant has predetermined to take his chance at the diggings, or finds, on reaching Melbourne, that there is nothing else for him, he must form a party, which he will probably have done on shipboard, and start immediately, without losing a day in Melbourne, if he can make suitable arrangements. Gold mining cannot well be conducted by an individual. There must be a party. The party may be of any

number, of not fewer than three, but I would not recommend a larger number than five altogether. This would allow of three being employed in digging and carrying the stuff, one in rocking the cradle and washing the gold, and one in keeping the tent and acting as cook and steward for the party. The last of these offices may be discharged week about by the different members of the party, unless one of their number should exhibit a superior talent for house-keeping to the others. The implements and other requisites for such a party of miners are a tent, a few picks and shovels, with one or two crow bars, two or three prospecting pans and tin pots, and a cradle. All these requisites were procurable in Sydney, when I left the colony, at, perhaps, as reasonable a price as they could be purchased at in London, and the cradle especially of a much better construction than those I have seen for sale here. Some of the latter have had the handle, or rocker, as it is called, at the end, instead of at the side, the only proper place for applying the power; they were also too short, and had no bevel or inclination towards the foot. The colonial article is decidedly the best. Cradles are often procurable at second-hand at the mines, and, unfortunately for the seller, at much less than they cost. I was asked at the Turon mines, by a humorous fellow-countryman of my own, whether I would sell mine—a very common question in these regions, implying a hint that the party is going to give it up as a bad job; but I had none to sell, having gone merely to see *the Great Exhibition*. The stores to be provided for a party of miners consist principally of flour, sugar, and tea; for beef and mutton are always procurable in such places in Australia at a much cheaper rate than at home. These, with a few cooking utensils, and such articles of personal baggage as cannot well be dispensed with, constitute the outfit of a party of miners; and they must just make the best bargain they can with some carrier or drayman to convey them to the

mines. Carriage to the mines was exorbitantly high in May last, and it must be much higher now. And as the rate of progress will necessarily be slow, it will be a sort of apprenticeship for some of the party to their future bush life, to accompany the dray on foot, and rig their tent up every night, with a fire in front of it. For the first forty miles the road to Mount Alexander was entirely in a state of nature, but still remarkably good when I travelled it. The distance to the Mount is thirty-five miles more; but I have not been farther in that direction. As all the mines, however, are much the same in appearance, and are worked in much the same way, the process at any one of them is equally applicable to all the rest.

Arrived at the mines, the party must pitch their tent and select their claim wherever they can find one with the fairest promise of success. This is often rather a difficult task; but as no previous scientific knowledge or practical experience can enable any person to say beforehand whether gold will be found or not in any particular spot, science and ignorance are pretty much upon a level in the matter; and in a very few days any person of ordinary discernment will, in a region known to produce gold be just as fit as the most scientific geologist, to fix upon the particular spots where the precious metal is likely to be found. When the locality is fixed on, it is measured off and registered by the Commissioner, to whom a license fee of £1 10s. per month must be paid by every miner of the party before commencing operations. Sometimes the gold is found near the surface in diluvial gravel, at others in a bluish clay farther down, and sometimes in a hard yellowish loam that seems to have been baked as in the fire. When the stuff is dug up in any quantity, it is carried in buckets, in bags, in wheelbarrows, or in carts, to **nearest water**, which is sometimes far enough off, **acted** to the process of cradling. For **er** throws a shovelfull of stuff into

the square box with an iron plate bottom drilled full of holes at the head of the cradle, and then pouring water upon it from a tin pot fixed to a staff in his right hand, he rocks it with his left; just as if he were rocking an infant to sleep. When the earth and sand have been washed through the holes, the cradler examines the stones that remain in the box, as he may perhaps find a nugget of gold among them; but if he finds nothing of the kind, he throws out the stones on the heap, and repeats the process with another shovelfull of stuff. When this process has been gone through from perhaps ten to fifteen times, the cradler scoops out with a knife into a tin pan the stuff that has accumulated on the upper side of the ledges that divide the bottom of the cradle into three compartments, and holding the pan in an inclined position, after partly filling it with water, he gives it a circular motion, to throw off all the lighter matter over the lower edge of the pan. This is often rather a tedious operation, and it is one also of considerable delicacy; for the light scale-gold is often lost by being washed over the edge of the pan along with the sand and earth. When it is finished, the gold is found in the bottom of the pan and is emptied into a small tin box or leather bag, the general receptacle of the gains of the party. The work, it may be conceived, is very hard—as hard as that of a navvy on a railway; for the holes are often dug to the depth of twenty feet and upwards. The lodging is also hard enough, and the fare, although beef and mutton are abundant and cheap, is often, in other respects, indifferent. But in no case does the sentiment of the poet apply more fully than in gold mining—

“Hope springs eternal in the human breast.”

Leaving the party then to work their claim at the mines, and wishing them all success in this somewhat novel and wonderfully exciting branch of industry,

let us return to town to see what can be planned out for

THOSE WHO DO NOT GO TO THE DIGGINGS.

For labourers of all descriptions, as well as for mechanics of all handicrafts, Port Phillip presents a noble field of remunerating employment; and persons of these classes will, accordingly, find their services in immediate and urgent demand. There are certain branches of business, indeed, that are not pursued in the colonies at all: as, for instance, those of a muslin or silk-weaver, of a button or pin-maker, with many others; but persons of these occupations will easily find something else to turn their hands to, and will not require to remain all the day idle for want of remunerating employment. For people who have been engaged in business of any kind, it is generally a good rule to follow the same occupation in the colony as they have been accustomed to at home, if there is any opening for it; and if such an opening should not be found in the principal towns, it may, nevertheless, be found in one or other of the subordinate ones. For with such an influx of population as is now taking place in Port Phillip, places that are, at present, apparently insignificant, will, in a very few years, become populous and important towns; and there are many advantages in establishing oneself early in such places. Eligible building allotments will then be procurable at a price which, in the natural progress of the settlement, will, in a very few years, be enhanced, perhaps, twenty-fold. Business connections will also be formed with comparative facility in such situations; and these will extend and expand with the progress of the place.

For the class of young men, of the class of clerks, of obtaining mercantile situations, it is well known that the prospect is, at present, somewhat uncertain.

tain and precarious, as the result will depend very much on the proportion of persons of this class who are now going out, as compared with the rest of the community; and this no person can, at present, tell. That many additional places of business of all kinds will be established, both in the principal towns and throughout the colony generally, and that there will, consequently, be a greatly increased demand for the services of clerks and storekeepers, &c., there can be no doubt—but whether there may not be a larger number of persons of this class going out than there will be situations for, is a matter of uncertainty; but there is always the diggings, as a general resource, for those who would prefer such situations, but cannot obtain them.

As to a young man of respectable standing and education, engaging in pastoral pursuits, if he either dislikes, or has been unsuccessful at the diggings, or has failed in obtaining an eligible mercantile situation, he must either do so as a master, or as a man—as a squatter, or as a shepherd. As a flock-master, or squatter, he must be possessed of a comparatively large capital, not only to buy the whole sheep and cattle of some actual proprietor who may be disposed to sell, but to buy his right to his particular station also. For the whole country is parcelled out in extensive sheep stations and cattle runs, which are secured to their actual possessors by an Act of Parliament, granting them leases and rights of preemption; and it will, in all likelihood, be greatly beyond the means of the newly-arrived emigrant, and especially of a young adventurer, to make any such purchase. As to the idea of a respectable young man hiring himself as a shepherd in Australia, at £25 or £30 a year, with a weekly ration of 10lbs. of flour, the same of beef or mutton, 4oz. of tea, and 1lb. or 2lbs. of sugar, it is not to be thought of. He must try something else.

There are many respectable families, however,

among the emigrants of the present period, who will have no intention either of going to the mines, or of engaging in business, but who will emigrate exclusively to settle on land, and to engage as agricultural settlers in its cultivation. What, then, are such people to do? Where are they to go? And what are their prospects in Port Phillip?

PORT PHILLIP AS AN AGRICULTURAL COUNTRY.

Port Phillip, or the colony of Victoria, is about the size of Great Britain. It has ranges of mountains in various parts of its extent, some of which are of great elevation, and not unfrequently covered with snow; but, in general, it is a level country, and much of it is adapted in the highest degree for cultivation. Within thirty miles of Melbourne there are many beautiful and fertile tracts of limited extent, well adapted for agricultural purposes; but the land within this distance of the capital is generally in the hands of private proprietors, and it is only in more distant localities that it can be purchased in sufficient extent, and at a sufficiently moderate price, to form eligible farms or estates for respectable settlers.

The portions of the territory of Port Phillip, or the colony of Victoria, that are more peculiarly eligible for colonization are: 1st. The Western Plains; 2nd. The country to the north-westward of Melbourne; 3rd. Western Port; and 4th. Gippsland—all of which localities are of great importance in the colony, and admirably adapted for the settlement of an agricultural population.

I. *The Western Plains.*—At the head of the western arm of Port Phillip is situated the harbour and town of Geelong; and from thence to the Glenelg River near the western boundary, distant upwards of 200 miles, there is a continuous tract of country of an average breadth of 25 miles, and containing altogether

at least 3,200,000 acres of land of the first quality for cultivation ; and, at the same time, as remarkable for its natural beauty and the picturesque character of its scenery, as any nobleman's park in Great Britain. At its eastern extremity, this tract of country is separated from the Great Southern Ocean by a range of mountains, called the Marrack Hills, densely wooded, and abounding in magnificent timber, but almost impenetrable ; but, about half-way to the Glenelg River, this range of mountains is interrupted, and the fertile tract extends right down to the Great Southern Ocean, from which it again recedes to the westward.

The whole of this tract of country is remarkably level, the inequalities of its surface being quite inconsiderable, and the extensive plains which it presents are generally covered with a rich carpet of grass, with a solitary tree here and there, of a species called in the colony *lightwood*, not much larger than an apple-tree, with a vegetation somewhat similar to that of the orange or the bay-tree. To diversify the scenery, however, these plains are dotted all over at irregular distances with beautiful conical hills of from 500 to 800 feet in height, which are evidently of volcanic origin, and which, at some former period of the earth's history, must have been powerfully active, the craters being, in several instances, quite distinct. There are also many beautiful lakes, of from thirty miles to half a mile in circuit, scattered over their whole extent, many of which are merely the craters of other extinct volcanoes. The soil of the plains is generally a rich black mould, and that of the hills, consisting of decomposed lava, of a deep chocolate colour, both descriptions of soil being exceedingly fertile, and suited to the growth of all descriptions of European grain. Some of the lakes are salt, and supply the inhabitants of the surrounding country with that indispensable article of subsistence in great quantities. On some parts of the plains the grass is so rich, and the climate so mild, that a single acre of

ground in its natural state, is capable of maintaining a bullock or heifer, without artificial food of any kind, all the year round; and from 50 to 60 bushels of wheat have been reaped per acre, although the general produce is 35. The western part of this extensive tract of country is admirably adapted for the growth of flax, of which an indigenous species grows wild, and covers hundreds of acres of ground with its beautiful blue flowers every year. It is on the coast along these plains that the three rising towns of Warnambool, Belfast, and Portland, which I have already mentioned, are situated; and as this splendid tract of country gets settled, which it will now do very rapidly, these towns will become places of great importance. The harbours at all the three places are of an indifferent character naturally, but they are all capable of great improvement.

II. *The Country to the North-Westward of Melbourne.*—The country extending northward from Melbourne, the capital of the province, to the incipient town of Albury, on the Hume River (distant 210 miles, on the road to Sydney,) is crossed by the Goulburn River, (a stream about the size of the Clyde in Scotland,) at 56 miles from Melbourne; by the Broken River, at 130, and by the Ovens River, at 160 miles; both of which, however, are considerably smaller. The whole of these rivers, as also the Hume (which is 50 miles beyond the Ovens,) and the Murrumbidgee (which is 100 miles beyond the Hume,) both of which are larger than the Goulburn, take their rise in the Snowy Mountains, or Australian Alps, to the eastward, and pursue a westerly course, till they all successively unite and form the Murray, which disembogues into the Lake Alexandrina, in South Australia, many hundred miles to the westward. From Melbourne to the Goulburn, the country is generally of volcanic origin, and much of it is of superior quality for cultivation; and from the Goulburn to the Hume, there are many tracts of great

extent, especially on the banks of the rivers, admirably adapted for small farms as well as for gardens, orchards, vineyards, &c. Besides, there is a boundless extent of pastoral country to the right and left, for which this is the only route to the ocean.

III. *Western Port* is an extensive inlet or harbour in Bass's Straits, to the eastward of the great inlet or gulf of Port Phillip. It is surrounded by an extensive tract of land of superior quality, both for grazing and for agriculture, and it is the only part of Port Phillip in which coal has as yet been discovered in an easily-accessible locality.

IV. *Gippsland* is situated at the south-eastern angle of Australia, and contains at least 300,000 acres of land of the first quality for cultivation, besides a great deal more of an inferior quality, but suitable enough for grazing. The port of this district, which is situated about 200 miles to the eastward of Melbourne, and is called Port Albert, is rather intricate, and occasionally dangerous for sailing vessels, but is practicable at all times for steam navigation. Twenty-five miles distant from this Port, across a level tract of intervening land, there is an extensive and beautiful lake, or rather chain of lakes, running parallel to the coast, and affording an inland navigation of sixty to eighty miles; and into this lake several rivers that rise on the eastern flanks of the Snowy Mountains, and that are also navigable for a considerable distance, disembogue. On this lake and on these rivers is situated the whole extent of the good land of the district.

As the whole three tracts of country last mentioned are in the immediate neighbourhood of the Snowy Mountains, of which the highest peaks are from 6,000 to 7,000 feet high, and covered with perpetual snow; the supply of rain is constant and abundant, particularly in Gippsland and Western Port.

In regard to the classes of persons who should emigrate to such localities, small farms, with rising

families, living as tenants at home, or the sons of respectable farmers ready to begin the world on their own account, with a small amount of capital to give them a fair start, would find the prospect which such a country holds out to them, incomparably superior to anything that any of the provinces of British America or the United States presents; for a practical farmer purchasing either 80 or 160 acres of land, in Port Phillip, would, at the end of four or five years from the period of his embarkation, find himself much more comfortably settled in every respect, and be possessed of much more valuable property than if he had expended the same amount of capital, with the same degree of industry, in emigrating to Canada, New Brunswick, or Nova Scotia, and settling in any one of these colonies. Besides, the climate of Port Phillip is incomparably superior to that of any part of British America, or the United States.

But persons of many other classes of society, besides practical farmers, would find emigration to Port Phillip, in the present circumstances of the country, equally advisable. A comfortable home, and a valuable property, could there be created for their families, at a comparatively small cost. One or two farm-servants, hired at home, *to receive the regular wages of the colony*, (whose subsistence would cost very little till it could be raised from the land, and whose passage out would cost nothing, if the land were purchased in London, from the Commissioners of Emigration, who allow parties purchasing land to nominate suitable persons as labourers or farm servants, for free passages,) would be able to perform all the farming operations that would require previous skill or experience; and if, at the end of two or three years, the proprietor should find it more for his advantage to enter into business in the line of life to which he had been previously accustomed, he could do so with all the increased facility which his knowledge of the country would give him, in one or other of the towns

that would spring up in his neighbourhood, letting his farm, perhaps, to the servants he had carried out with him from home.

But the most numerous description of emigrants will in all likelihood consist of persons who could not afford either to buy or to settle upon land at all, till they had earned something to commence with by their industry in the Colony. Employment, however, for a longer or shorter period, in the service of one or other of the numerous respectable colonists already thinly scattered over the territory, would soon enable such persons to purchase farms either of 80 or of 160 acres, and to settle upon them with the best prospects of success. To show what can be done by virtuous and industrious people of the very humblest class in society in Port Phillip, the following case, which is merely one of a class, and which occurred during the worst times the colony has ever experienced, is sufficiently in point:—

John M'Millan, a native of Skipness, in the Highlands of Scotland, had, previous to the year 1840, (when he obtained a free passage for himself and family, as bounty emigrants to Port Phillip, per the ship "David Clark,") been for five or six years a common porter on the streets of Greenock. He had only from five to ten shillings altogether when he arrived at Melbourne, and that sum he had received for some petty service on board ship from one of the cabin passengers; but his wife was a stout, active Highland woman, and he had nine sons and one daughter, of various ages, from infancy to twenty years. He had no trade or handicraft, but as labour of all kinds was in great demand at the time, he obtained £2 a week as a stonemason's labourer, and those of his sons that were fit for service of any kind were hired out under various masters. With the first savings of the family he bought a cow, which cost £12; and another and another were added from time to time, till, in the month of February, 1846, his

herd amounted—increase and purchases included—to 400 head; and as so large a herd could no longer be depastured near the principal town, he had obtained a squatting licence from the Government to depasture them on the waste crown land (which costs £10 a year), and the writer actually saw them, under charge of two of his sons, on the way to their station on the Murray River, about 200 miles distant from Melbourne. In the meantime he had purchased, with the earnings of the family, (from a gentleman who had bought 5000 acres of land, at £1 an acre, which he selected within a few miles of Melbourne, in the hope of making a fortune from its rise in value,) 42 acres of ground, at £7 an acre, at a place called Brighton, on the sea-coast, within the gulf, about six miles from the town. The whole of this land he had cleared, divided into paddocks, with rail-fences, and brought into a high state of cultivation; and as land of the same description immediately adjoining it had cost £5 an acre for clearing,—for it was heavily timbered—the real price of it may be considered as having been £12 an acre. The soil appeared to be light and sandy, but it bore crops of wheat of from 30 to 40 bushels an acre. M'Millan had rented a small farm adjoining his own during the year 1845, and from both he had reaped from 700 to 800 bushels of wheat, and collected 60 tons of oaten hay; and he considered himself, in 1846, worth altogether £1100.

M'Millan was not only an industrious but a pious and benevolent man, and his object in calling upon the writer in Melbourne, and stating his own case, (which he did at length,) was to entreat him, which he actually did with tears, to use his influence at home to get out as many as possible of his poor starving countrymen to a country where, with common industry and perseverance, they could not fail to do well.

Now, there are hundreds and thousands of virtuous and industrious families in all parts of the United Kingdom, who would, in all likelihood, succeed just as

well at Port Phillip as this Highlander ; and under the present circumstances of the colony, independently altogether of the gold mines, such families would have a much better chance of success ; for they would now get much better land at a far cheaper rate, and as good a cow to begin their stock with for £2 or £3, as the one M'Millan had to pay £12 for in 1840 or 1841.

The following extract, from the examination of James Malcolm, Esq., an extensive proprietor in Port Phillip, before a Select Committee of the Legislative Council of New South Wales, in the year 1845, on the general capabilities of that country, and especially of the Western Plains, strongly confirms all that has been said above about their eligibility as a place of settlement for industrious people, and for respectable families of limited means. The writer was a member of that committee at the time, and is well acquainted with Mr. Malcolm, who is a first-rate farmer himself.

James Malcolm, Esq., called in and examined.

You are a settler at Port Phillip ?—Both a squatter [that is, a proprietor and grazier of sheep and cattle] and settler, [or farmer ;] perhaps the oldest squatter in the district.

Do you consider the colony, generally, a favourable field for immigration ?—I do.

More especially Port Phillip ?—More particularly.

What population do you think the district of Port Phillip is capable of supporting ?—I cannot well answer that question ; I should say certainly a very large population.

Do you think any given area in that district would support as large a population as a similar area in any part of Great Britain ?—I think it would ; I have been through many parts of England—through the county of Kent and other agricultural counties—and also through Scotland, and I have seen in Port Phillip large tracts of land as rich as any I have seen in Great Britain.

Equal to the best parts of Great Britain ?—The district from Lake Colac, for about two hundred miles, is very rich ; I do not think there is richer land in any part of the world ; it is as good land as ever plough was put into.

And already cleared ?—Yes, there are thousands of acres

adjoining Lake Colac clear of timber, and the richest land I ever walked or rode over; it is about forty-five miles from Geelong, between Geelong and Portland.

Is it well supplied with water?—Yes; with streams and lakes, one of which is about twenty miles in circumference.

You are of opinion, then, that the field is almost unlimited for the eligible settlement of immigrants?—I should say so; all the way to Port Fairy and the Glenelg River is as good as the part I have spoken of, taking the south side of the lakes; the other side is not so good, but is a good grazing country. I have been over a tract of country extending from Lake Colac to Portland Bay, which I never saw the like of; a great part of it is too rich for sheep.

Do you think the district of Port Phillip would afford an eligible field for the settlement of small farmers, who might arrive with their families, bringing with them a small capital?—I think there is no part of the world where persons of that class could do better than in Port Phillip; I am agent for several gentlemen who have lands in that district, and let out a considerable portion in small farms; many of my shepherds, after they have been a few years in service, have saved perhaps one hundred or two hundred pounds, and turned farmers on their own account.

Is the tract of country, of which you have spoken, on the borders of Lake Colac, subject to drought?—No, there are regular rains; it was nine years last May since I went to Port Phillip, and during that time we have always had regular rains; I have a farm within sixteen miles of Melbourne, from which I have had during the last four years excellent crops.

What description of grain did you grow principally?—Wheat, barley, and oats; we also grew potatoes.

What is the average quantity of wheat you obtain from your land?—It has averaged thirty bushels an acre.

And the barley?—Upwards of forty.

Is the barley grown by you suitable for malt?—Yes, I have sold it for the last three years to Mr. Condell, late M.C., a brewer in Melbourne; it averaged by weight fifty-three pounds a bushel.

What is the weight of wheat per bushel?—It is sold at sixty pounds to the bushel, but it often weighs more.

In your district what extent of land do you consider applicable to agriculture?—In addition to the land I have mentioned (from Lake Colac westward,) there is plenty of land all round Geelong and Melbourne (thousands of acres) as rich as any land I have ever seen.

Is it a part of the colony capable of supporting a dense population?—It could support an immense number of per-

sons ; richer land never grew wheat over than that in some parts of Port Phillip.

Have you calculated at what price per bushel you could afford to grow wheat?—It would pay well if we could get five shillings a bushel for it.

Do you not think persons who cultivated their own lands with the assistance of their families could afford to sell it for less?—Yes, I think it would pay them as well at four shillings as it would pay me at five shillings. A man having the assistance of the members of his own family only in working his farm, can raise grain at a much cheaper rate than persons who pay for labour.

Do you know many instances where immigrants who have come out as labourers have succeeded in establishing themselves as farmers, stockholders, or land-owners?—Yes, several men in my own employ have done so.

Are there numerous instances of that kind?—I have known a good many.

It is evident, therefore, that, independently altogether of the gold fields, there is a noble prospect in Port Phillip for small farmers, and for respectable families of limited means, whether previously accustomed to farming or not, who may be desirous of obtaining a limited extent of eligible land of their own for the cultivation of the soil. Such persons and families will not fail to reap much benefit from the gold mines, although they should never go to the diggings themselves, from the population which the gold fields are attracting to the country, from the additional markets they are thus creating for all descriptions of agricultural produce, from the money they are circulating in all directions, and from the wonderful stimulus they are giving to trade in every department of industry, and in every walk of life. Let us hear no more then of the mawkish, whining cant about gold being the ruin and the curse of every country in which it has hitherto been discovered,—as if there were anything either wrong or sinful in drawing money out of God's bank bowels of mother earth, any more than there drawing it out of the Bank of England, the curse of mere earth-worms. What countries, I

what people has the discovery of gold ever ruined? Oh, the Spaniards in South America, I shall be told—as if intelligent and energetic British and American Protestants were to be compared with the miserable, abject, priest-ridden serfs of Popery in South America, whose only notion of freedom is anarchy, and whose only idea of government is blowing out each other's brains! I deny that it was the discovery of gold that ruined the Spaniards either in Europe or America; it was Popery and political despotism, which Popery uniformly upholds whenever it will serve her purposes,—it was this that ruined the Spaniards, just as it is degrading the French, and not the discovery of gold. Will any man presume to allege that Louis Napoleon could have played the contemptible pranks he is now playing, or established the degrading despotism under which he is now crushing the abject millions of France, in any country in which the English language is spoken, or among any people, whether British or American, to whom our common Protestantism is dear? So far from the discovery of gold being likely to prove either the ruin or the curse of California and Australia, I have no doubt whatever that it will enable the thoroughly Protestant communities which it is raising up in both of these countries to assume, at a comparatively early period, the very highest position, whether intellectually, socially, or politically, among the nations of the earth.

When an emigrant wishes to purchase any extent of waste land in the Australian Colonies, he must notify his desire to the Local Government, by whom it is advertised and exposed for sale by auction at the first periodical sale. It is then put up at the minimum rate of a pound an acre, and if nobody bids more, the applicant gets it; but if it is eligibly situated, the probability is that he will not get it at that price, and that he will be obliged to pay considerably more. There was a most iniquitous piece of legislation perpetrated by the Imperial Parliament in the year

1846, which is likely to interfere considerably with the prospects of reputable and respectable emigrants in Port Phillip; the Act referred to, which was passed at the instance of Earl Grey, in entire ignorance of the real merits of the case, giving long leases and rights of pre-emption at the minimum price over the best lands of the colony to the squatters, who had done nothing whatever to deserve such a boon. It was tantamount to a general confiscation of the public property of the colony. But so monstrous an outrage upon the common sense as well as the rights and interests of the colonists generally, can never be permitted to subsist by an intelligent community of British freemen; and therefore, if the Imperial Parliament does not very speedily retrace its steps and repeal this iniquitous and suicidal act, the people of Port Phillip will most certainly do so themselves very soon, without asking the Imperial Parliament's permission. Things are, indeed, rapidly coming to a crisis in these miserably governed colonies; and the sooner that crisis comes, the better will it be for all parties concerned. At one-fourth of the expense of the present system of government, under which the inhabitants of the Australian colonies are kept down and oppressed in every possible way, a system of government could be established and maintained in every way suited to the wants of the people, and likely to ensure their welfare and advancement in the highest degree. And such a change, which, I repeat it, is now fast approaching, would be every whit as beneficial for Great Britain, as it would be for us. It is the law of nature and the ordinance of God, that full-grown colonies should become nations, and govern themselves; and government of the colonies from a brick house in London, is contrary to that law and ordinance, is in no respect a matter of right, but is simply injustice and tyranny.

But although the colonist who settles on land in Port Philip will easily be able to collect around him all

the elements of rough and rural abundance, it must be borne in mind that the colonial market, which is the only one accessible to him for agricultural produce, is comparatively limited, while the competition in that market will very soon be so great as to depress all such produce below a remunerating price. In short, Port Phillip grows nothing for the home market in the way of agricultural produce; for it is hopeless to think of competing from that colony with the English farmer, or even with the continental or American farmer, in the growth of grain for that market. Now this is a very serious consideration for the intending emigrant. It is evident, at all events, that agricultural produce of all kinds will, ere long, be very low in Port Phillip, as it has been repeatedly already; and as I have already observed, there is nothing grown in that colony for which there is a constant demand, and a ready sale at a remunerating price in the home market. In short, there will soon be so many people—including a large number who will have returned from the diggings, with a small independency, to settle on land, on their own account, and to grow farm produce for the colonial market—engaged in agriculture throughout the colony of Port Phillip, that agriculture will cease to be remunerating to a large proportion of the cultivators, especially to those who will have to employ hired labour. Let us see, then, how this important matter stands in the other colony of which I promised a short description at the outset, and which also contains extensive gold field, I mean the colony of New South Wales.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

New South Wales was the first British colony in Australia, and it is still much the largest in size, and has much the largest population. As I have already stated, Port Phillip, or the colony of Victoria, was merely a part of New South Wales, till the 1st of July, 1851. Port Phillip is the southernmost part of

Australia, and lies along the Great Southern Ocean, and Bass's Straits; New South Wales is on the east coast of the great island-continent, and is bounded along its whole extent, by the Pacific Ocean. Port Phillip is as large as Great Britain; but New South Wales is equal in extent to both Great Britain and France together. Port Phillip is chiefly a level country, much of the land being very little above the sea. But New South Wales has not only great chains of mountains, but a large extent of table land, at an elevation of, at least, two thousand feet above the ocean level. From this cause there is a much greater variety of climate in New South Wales, than there is in Port Phillip, and a much greater range of productions; some parts of New South Wales being colder, and others much warmer than Port Phillip. Port Phillip grows nothing that cannot be grown in England, but while New South Wales can grow everything that is grown in Port Phillip, it can also grow to an unlimited extent the rich produce of warmer climes. The gold mines of Port Phillip may be richer than those of New South Wales, although this is questionable; but the probability is that they are not nearly so extensive. The mines at Port Phillip are more easily got at than in New South Wales, and there have been far more people at work at them; but the largest mass of gold yet discovered anywhere in the modern world, has been found in New South Wales. The population of New South Wales on the 1st of March, 1851, was upwards of 189,000, and that of the city of Sydney, its capital, upwards of 53,000.

THE CITY OF SYDNEY,

THE FUTURE METROPOLIS OF THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE.

The harbour of Port Jackson, of which Sydney Cove is one of the numerous arms or inlets, is one of the finest in the world, and was evidently designed by the great Architect of the universe, to be the seat of the capital of a mighty empire. From the much

greater extent and population of the city of Sydney, it cannot be so easily affected by a considerable amount of immigration as Melbourne; and from misapprehension as to the capabilities of the two colonies in other respects, the amount of emigration to Sydney has hitherto been considerably smaller than to Melbourne. From both of these causes temporary accommodation, both for persons and goods, will be much more easily procurable in Sydney than in Melbourne, and at a much smaller cost. The same question has to be asked and answered there as in Melbourne :

SHALL I GO TO THE DIGGINGS ?

The New South Wales gold mines are,

1. The Ophir and Turon mines, in the Bathurst District, across the Blue Mountains, to the westward of Sydney, and distant about 130 miles.

2. The Hanging Rock, about 30 miles from Tamworth, on the Peel River, to the north-westward of Sydney, and distant about 250 miles.

3. The Tuena Diggings on the Abercrombie River, to the south-westward of Sydney, and distant about 160 miles. And

4. The Braidwood or Araluen Diggings, to the southward of Sydney, distant about 140 miles.

In all these localities, which it must be evident, from the distances and directions indicated, comprise altogether a vast extent of country, large quantities of gold have been, and are still found—sometimes near the surface, and at others at a depth varying from ten to thirty feet.

Recent papers from New South Wales—the “*Empire*,” (published in Sydney) of the 10th, 11th, and 15th of May last, contain the following announcements in regard to the gold fields of that colony.

By the Douglas, which sailed on Saturday, (8th May,) for London, there were exported 11,753 ozs. 13 dwts. of gold; the value of which, at £3 10s. per ounce, is £41,137 15s. 6d.

The Prince of Wales, which sailed yesterday, (9th May) for London, took with her the largest shipment of gold, with the exception of that by the Blackwall, which has been made from this port. The amount was 34,327 ozs. 9 dwts. 16 grs. At the rate of £3 10s. per oz., this will amount to £120,145 3s. 10d.

By the armed escort which arrived yesterday (10th May) from the Southern diggings [those mentioned last in the above enumeration] the following consignments of gold were brought in and deposited at the Treasury—

	ozs.	dwts.	grs.
From Bell's Creek.....	550	8	0
" Araluen	431	10	0
" Braidwood	400	1	14
" Goulburn.....	83	13	6
" Mungarlow	64	0	0
<hr/>			
Total ounces	1529	12	20

The whole amount brought in by escort and the two days' mails, was 2080 ozs. 2 dwts. 20 grs.

GOLD NEWS OF THE WEEK, May 15.—The arrival of gold during the week by escort and mails, amounts to a total sum of 5565 ozs. 5 dwts. 8 grs. Of this amount, 937 ozs. 10 dwts. arrived by mail, and 4627 ozs. 15 dwts. 8 grs. by escort.

The intelligence from the diggings is, on the whole, very encouraging. At the Turon, all is activity again. The continuance of fine weather allows of the bed claims being worked—races are cut through the bars to carry off the under-ground current, and, in many instances, large returns repay the industrious miner. At Sheep Station Point, Reuben's, Harbottle's, Paterson, Monday, and Thomson's Point, great exertions are made to get at the auriferous deposits. In one instance at Paterson Point, 178 ozs. of gold were procured (by a person named Penfold) in ten days; and should the fine weather keep up, the Turon may be expected to rival its former productiveness. Rich diggings had been opened on the Winburndale Creek, and many parties were doing a good stroke there. At the Braidwood diggings, heavy rains had fallen, which materially interfered with mining operations, especially on Bell's Creek.

At the Little River Long Toms are in pretty general use. The water is subsiding at Ophir, and the miners are doing somewhat better. At the Tuena Creek the miners are very successful. On this Creek and Mulgunnia, both running into the Abercrombie, there are between two and three hundred persons at work, some parties making four and five ounces a day. The water in the Abercrombie is going down fast, and

will probably admit of the bed being worked shortly. On this river the banks and ridges on each side are much steeper than at the Turon, and there is less chance of any rich dry diggings being found. But, on the creeks which flow into it, the case is different, and these are all represented as abounding in gold. At the Peel diggings report speaks of considerable success attending mining operations, and large quantities of gold are forwarded from them.

There is appended to the same report the following announcement in regard to the gold fields of Port Phillip.

The yield of gold at the Victoria diggings is astounding. The escort from Mount Alexander brought to Melbourne on the 30th April, 19,726 ozs. 10 dwts., and on the following day, Friday, May 7th, the enormous quantity of 23,914 ozs. 10 dwts. The Ballarat escort took 580 ozs. 8 dwts., the greater part of which was left at Geelong.

It must be borne in mind, however, that this large yield is in all likelihood not greater per head to the miners at the Mount Alexander diggings than the amount previously given as the week's return, viz., 5565 ozs. 5 dwts. 8 grs. in New South Wales; for the number of diggers is at least four times greater in Port Phillip than in New South Wales. Besides, several parties who had left the Turon mines and gone to Mount Alexander, had actually returned to New South Wales, and resumed their operations in the old places. The reasons they assigned for this step were that they could do as well at the Turon and the other New South Wales diggings, as at Mount Alexander; that water was much more accessible in New South Wales than at Port Phillip; that things were cheaper generally, and that they could live on the whole more comfortably than among such a multitude of people. Besides, it has been reported by the last accounts, that a quartz ridge has been discovered near the Lower Wallaby Rocks, on the Turon River, which is said to be richer than the auriferous quartz of Louisa Creek in which the hundredweight of gold was found.

In continuation of these notices, I shall add only one further extract from a letter from Sydney, received by the Overland Mail, and published in *The Times* of 29th Sept., 1852:—

Sydney, June 22, 1852.

I think we shall have some great diggings here soon. You will see that we shall have our Mount Alexander yet, as well as the Victorians. There are deposits to the northward, on the Peel River, called the Hanging Rock Diggings, which are being developed very quietly. The parties there are doing wonderfully well. We hear of, and see weekly, large nuggets of 10oz. to 20oz. and upwards from that quarter. They are doing as well—the few that are there—as those at Victoria.

Supposing, then, that a party of emigrants have determined, on arriving in Sydney, to go to the diggings—I shall suppose them to be young men, hoping that heads of families will have a little more consideration for the comfort and welfare of their households, so as to look about them in Sydney, or elsewhere in the settled parts of the country, to see whether they cannot establish themselves comfortably in some other line of life, remembering all the while that it is not always the people who go to the diggings that manage to get most of the gold in the end,—supposing, I say, that a party of stout young men is actually formed to go to the mines, and that they have purchased their tent, their cradle, their picks, shovels, crow-bars, prospecting pans and dip-pers, all of which they will be able to procure as easily and as cheaply in Sydney as in London, and probably much better suited for their purpose, their first step will be to get their outfit forwarded by some carrier's dray to the Turon, or wheresoever else they have determined on making a trial. It is prudent (on such occasions for one or two of the party to accompany the dray, while the others proceed by coach, as to have the prospecting finished, and a suitable spot selected for commencing operations as soon

the baggage arrives at the place of rendezvous—say the town of Sofala, on the Turon River.

OFF TO THE TURON.

The fare, by coach, from Sydney to Bathurst, the head quarters of gold-mining in New South Wales, is £3, the coach leaving Sydney at 5 p.m., and reaching Bathurst, about 130 miles distant, in the evening of the following day. Another coach plies between Bathurst and Sofala, a distance of 28 miles, the fare being £1; but there is a coach direct from Sydney to Sofala, the distance between the two places being the same as to Bathurst. The first stage on the journey is Parramatta, the second town in the colony, 15 miles from Sydney, containing upwards of 4,000 inhabitants. To this town the diggers generally proceed by steam-boat, there being a communication by water so far; and from this point they make the best of their way, by coach, on horseback, by horse or bullock wagons, accompanying their outfit, or on foot, with their bundles on their backs, dressed either in red or blue flannel shirts, (without either coat or vest,) felt or straw hats, and a leathern belt about their waist—this being the uniform of the diggers. I made the journey myself on horseback, and the horse I had for the journey, a stout good-looking animal, with saddle and bridle complete, cost, at the horse bazaar, in Sydney, only £12 altogether. The following are the stages of the journey—at least, those I stopped at:—

29th September, 1851.—Started from Sydney on horseback, at 2 p.m., and rode to Penrith, a small town on the Nepean River, distant 33 miles, where I rested for the night. The road traverses the county of Cumberland: much of which has been cleared, although the road, for a great part of the way, is flanked on both sides by the native forest.

30th September.—Started at 7 a.m.; crossed the

Nepean, and the beautiful fertile plain, of rich alluvial land, on its banks. The river is 200 yards broad at the ferry. Then commenced the ascent of the Blue Mountains, rising gradually to a height of about 3,000 feet above the level of the sea. The climate is here quite different from what it is below—the weather being very cold on the mountains. Halted at the Weatherboard Hut for an hour or two at noon, and went to see a remarkable cataract in the neighbourhood, where the scenery is magnificent; the water falling about a thousand feet into a deep dark wooded ravine. Descended to the inn at the foot of the Vittoria Pass, on the opposite side of the mountains, making a stage for the day of 46 miles. Passed many parties of adventurers on the mountains, on their way to the mines, with the never-failing cradle strapped on the top of their wagons, or fixed behind or below.

1st October.—Passed through the Vale of Clwyd, a fine grassy valley, 10 miles to Bowenfels, a rising village in the valley, where a National School is building, and then turned off the Bathurst road to the right, to reach the sources of the Turon. Arrived at Ben Bullen, the estate of T. Cadell, Esq., under whose hospitable roof I spent the night; the journey for the day being about 32 miles.

2nd October.—Spent the whole of this day at Ben Bullen, riding out with Mr. Cadell to see some remarkable scenery in the neighbourhood, and, in particular, the place where the Turon River is formed from the junction of three mountain streams or creeks, that rise within a few miles of Ben Bullen. Saw a small party of miners who were at work at the sources of the river, supposing they would be likelier to get gold in larger lumps and in great quantity, where it seemed to come from, than farther down the river; but they had not realized their expectations, nobody being able to tell where gold is to be found in quantity, till he makes the trial: there being no entrance for directors into this great

posit—no admission but by the pick and the shovel.

3rd October.—Rode down the valley of the Turon River with a party of miners, of whose knowledge of the route I was glad to avail myself, to Sofala, the township on the Turon, a distance of 28 miles. The Turon is one of the tributaries of the Macquarie River, and has a course of 100 to 130 miles, receiving many minor streams and creeks, on some of which much gold has been dug out, in its course. The valley of the river is narrow, with lofty precipitous cliffs of clay slate rock on either side, and the flats that are met with at every turn on its banks are covered with beautiful swamp oaks, which it seems almost a sin to destroy; as the diggers are doing wherever they go, sometimes finding a nest, or pocket, of gold at the root of a tree. The valley widens as you go down, and the township of Sofala consists of a small, but beautiful plain, with the land rising rapidly behind it.

The town of Sofala, which had sprung into existence shortly after the discovery of the diggings, consisted, at the period of my visit, of numberless tents, of all sorts and sizes, stretching along the valley of the river for miles, both up and down. Their white appearance in the day-time wherever the eye was directed, the parties of miners digging away in all directions, the rocking of innumerable cradles along the river, producing a sound somewhat similar to what one hears in a village, consisting of the houses and workshops of hand-loom weavers, and the numberless lights along the heights by night—it was in reality a Great Exhibition. It was calculated that there were, at least, twelve thousand people on the Turon and its tributaries at the period of my visit. The town of Sofala had a post-office, a coach-office, a gold-office, a royal circus, and a royal hotel. I took up my lodgings at the last of these establishments for the three days I spent at the mines. The walls of the hotel consisted of saplings that had been cut down in

the neighbouring forest, and stuck in the ground at proper intervals, after being rudely dressed with an axe; cross pieces of the same material fixing them together, and the framework of the roof being precisely similar, the whole, both walls and roof, being covered with calico nailed to the framework. There was a public room for all purposes and for all visitors, and a sleeping apartment, affording separate sleeping accommodation for four persons. It was certainly neither wind nor water tight, but nobody expects anything better at the mines.

4th October.—Spent the whole of this day in visiting the different mining stations along the river, both above and below the town, conversing with the miners, and assisting, as every stranger is expected to do, to rock the cradle. At Sheep Station Point the gold was found in the surface gravel. Several of the miners had been very successful. A woman, who was rocking a cradle, and whose husband and son formed the rest of her party, showed me a nugget, or lump, of gold she had found in her cradle, of 3 ozs. in weight. At Lucky Point, where the gold was to be found in bluish clay, a native of the colony, who had a party of diggers at work for him, told me he would get about 8 ozs. of gold from the quantity of clay, about two cart-loads, which had been brought up to the surface for washing. He had been very successful. At Maitland Point, parties were digging in the channel of the river, but were much incommoded with the water. They had generally been successful, although I found not a few who had not. At Golden Point, where gold was found in a hard yellow clay, several parties had met with great success, and at Oakey Creek, not a few had been unusually fortunate; a Scotchman, who belonged to a party of three on that creek, having told me that they had got as much as 32 ozs. of gold in one day. Many, however, were not clearing their expenses, while others, although doing considerably better, disliked the sort of life they

were living, and had made up their minds to return to their former occupations.

5th October, Sunday.—Performed divine service, agreeably to previous notice, on the plains of Sofala, standing in front of a tree that threw its shadow on the face of the hill, on which the large congregation of miners, amounting to about 3,000, were ranged in a dense mass all round, the front ranks sitting on the grass, and those behind standing. The service—according to the forms of the Presbyterian Church—was conducted in the most decorous manner, and the miners exhibited profound attention throughout. A volunteer choir had been formed for the occasion, and the psalmody, in which a large majority of the numerous congregation joined, was quite overpowering. At the close of the service, I delivered the following address to the miners, which was cordially received :—

TO THE SCOTCH AND NORTH OF IRELAND PRESBYTERIANS, AND TO PROTESTANTS GENERALLY, AT THE GOLD MINES OF AUSTRALIA.

FELLOW COUNTRYMEN AND CHRISTIAN FRIENDS,—The all-wise and beneficent Creator has been pleased in his good providence, to disclose to the inhabitants of this colony, and through them to the whole civilized world, the existence of an extensive auriferous region, or gold field, in this portion of our Western interior ; and, as might naturally be expected, daily increasing multitudes of persons of all classes have been attracted to the spot. Now, as God does nothing in vain, but has uniformly high and holy ends in all his works and ways, we are bound to conclude that the gold which has thus been mixed up in such large quantities with the soil of our land, had been so placed that it might be searched for, and turned to account for the purposes of man. We cannot, therefore, allow ourselves to suppose that there can be anything either inherently evil in the mere search for gold, or essentially demoralizing in the processes which that search implies. On the contrary, we can only regard it as a matter to be decided by every intelligent man for himself, whether he shall remain in the occupation he has hitherto pursued or betake himself to this new branch of industry which the good providence of God has opened up in our land. There is no credit to be assumed by the man who, in the exercise

of common prudence, remains in the pursuit or occupation to which he has been accustomed, because he believes it to be his interest to do so: there is no blame to be attached to the man who, for precisely the same reason, abandons his former employment, and goes to the mines.

That in other countries and ages the search for gold has served to call forth into frightful exhibition the worst passions of our nature, and led to the perpetration of crimes and cruelties, from the bare recital of which, humanity recoils, cannot be denied; and the circumstance has induced many well-meaning people to suppose that there must be something inherently evil, something essentially demoralizing in the process. The atrocities perpetrated by the Spaniards of the sixteenth century in Mexico and Peru, in their accursed thirst for gold, are known and read of all men; and the scenes of riot, robbery, and fire-raising, of famine, pestilence, and death, which have more recently characterized the search for gold even in California, have only served to strengthen this idea. But there is no analogy between either of these cases, and the discovery of the auriferous regions of Australia. Divine Providence has, with marvellous wisdom and beneficence, kept back that discovery until this community had acquired the requisite strength and consistency to enable it to sustain the shock which its announcement would inevitably occasion; till food and clothing, and all the other necessities and appliances of life, could be procured with facility; and till a numerous and reputable free immigrant population, who had come out to the colony with far different objects, had settled in the land. In these circumstances, we are warranted to cherish the hope that the search for gold in Australia will continue to be pursued as quietly and peacefully, as any other description of honest industry, and that no such scenes will be enacted here as have entailed an immortality of infamy upon the Spaniards of Mexico and Peru, or been exhibited in a modified form even in California.

Certain parties have all along, indeed, been raising a hue and cry about the necessity for increased protection for person and property in these regions; anticipating all manner of outrage, of violence and crime, among the labourers at the mines. Such persons seem to regard their fellow-men, if at all of a humbler class in society than themselves, as "natural brute beasts," who understand no argument but that of force, and who are only to be treated like sheep and cattle. Perhaps, however, they are merely desirous that the Local Government may have some excuse for creating additional and unnecessary offices for themselves or their friends at the public expense. I confess, however, I have much greater confidence in the influence of a few Christian men

for the preservation of the public peace, and the maintenance of order in a mixed community, than in any number of bayonets or batons. Remember, then, I entreat you, what the Lord Jesus said to his disciples, (for he still says precisely the same to real Christians of whatever denomination,) "*Ye are the salt of the earth*," or, ye are those whose peculiar function it is to preserve the mass of society from corruption. "*Ye are the light of the world*,"—ye are those whose honourable office it is to illuminate its intellectual and moral darkness. The fact that the exciting process of gold mining is actually pursued in this colony by a numerous but peaceful and orderly community of intelligent and Christian men, among whom the usual accompaniments of gold mining in other countries are nowhere seen—this fact will do more to distinguish our land in the estimation of the whole civilized world, than even the discovery of gold itself. * * * *

Having thus, as the main object of my visit, accredited to you a messenger of the churches under the superintendence of the Synod of New South Wales, it is perhaps unnecessary for me to anticipate his proper work in reminding you of your duty to God, to your neighbour, and to your country. Permit me, however, to offer a single word of exhortation on each of these topics.

In regard, therefore, to your duty to God, let me entreat you to *Remember the Sabbath-day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour and do all thy work; but the seventh is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work.* The observance of the Christian Sabbath is, in all circumstances, but especially in such circumstances as those in which you are at present placed in these gold mines, the badge of your discipleship, the touchstone of your Christian profession.

As to your duty to men, let me entreat you to be just in all your dealings with those with whom you come in contact; *be kindly-affectioned towards them; be courteous.* So shall *others, seeing your good works, be led to glorify your Heavenly Father.*

Your adopted country also expects you to do your duty to her in the peculiar circumstances in which you are placed. Be assured that Australia will soon date her existence as a great nation, second, I trust, to none, in all that is calculated to exalt and ennoble our common humanity, from the discovery of gold in this territory. The political significance of this wonderful discovery cannot be misunderstood, nor can its bearing on our destinies be mistaken. Within one short week from the day on which certain conspirators against the liberties of this land left the Legislative Council, after perpetrating an act of the grossest injustice towards

its people, *He who sits in the Heavens, and laughs at the impotent combinations of unprincipled men*, had disclosed the existence of an extensive auriferous region in our midst, as the divinely appointed means of ensuring, not merely political liberty, but national existence and a brilliant and glorious future for Australia.* The star of our freedom then arose in the east, and multitudes will ere long come forth from our fatherland to worship the present Deity. In such circumstances, our duty to our country is simply to act in all things, as becomes the founders of a great nation—to show that we are not unworthy of the liberty we claim, that we are not unfit for the independence that awaits us.

Finally, brethren, farewell. May the Lord bless and prosper you in all the labour of your hands; and while you are searching for the gold that perisheth, let me entreat you to *Seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all other things shall be added unto you.*

JOHN DUNMORE LANG, D.D.

Moderator of the Synod of New South Wales.

Sofala, Turon River,

5th October, 1851.

In the afternoon I walked up the river about three miles, and performed divine service to a congregation of about a thousand. No work of any kind was going on anywhere; and so far as I saw and heard, there was nothing to offend either the eye or the ear. The Romish Archbishop celebrated mass to his co-religionists on the same day, on the opposite side of the river, and a clergyman of the Church of England officiated at Golden Point.

6th October.—Rode from Sofala to Bathurst, 27 miles; torrents of rain on the way. Bathurst is a well-built thriving town, with upwards of 2,000 inhabitants, and situated upwards of 2,000 feet above the level of the sea. It has a beautiful grassy plain in front of it, naturally clear of timber, and flanked by the Macquarie River, with a line of swamp oaks on either bank. Remained two days at Bathurst, and

* The late Legislative Council, which had been summoned to pass the Electoral Act, by which a large proportion of the colonists are virtually disfranchised, was prorogued with a view to its dissolution on the 3rd of May last: the gold discovery was announced in Sydney on the 6th. Our bane and antidote were thus both before us within the course of one short week.

delivered a lecture, by request, on the Gold Discovery ; at the close of which I was presented with a nugget of the gold of Ophir, of $5\frac{1}{4}$ ozs. in weight.

9th October.—Left Bathurst for Sydney. Rode to Bowenfels, 40 miles, under torrents of rain, which, with the recent traffic, had cut up the roads dreadfully. Passed several drays on the mountain, the highest on the whole route, with broken axles, or broken shafts ; the parties they belonged to being encamped—miserably enough to all appearance, but still taking it quite cheerfully—under the rain in the neighbouring forest.

10th October.—Rode from Bowenfels to the Blue Mountain Inn, 35 miles.

11th October.—Started at day-break, and reached Emu Plains Inn, on the banks of the Nepean, a distance of 20 miles, to breakfast. Then started for Sydney, and reached it in the evening, after a long day's ride, of 54 miles. The horse had done his work remarkably well ; I sold him, however, at the Bazaar, a few weeks after I returned to Sydney, just as I had bought him—the price he realized being £10 15s.

PROSPECTS FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT GO TO THE DIGGINGS IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

For all descriptions of manual labour, for all mechanical handicrafts, there is the same demand as in Port Phillip, and the same eligible field of employment. Farm-servants and shepherds, and common labourers of all kinds, will find immediate and profitable engagements. And so also will carpenters, joiners, coopers, stonemasons, bricklayers, blacksmiths, plasterers, shoemakers, tailors, saddlers, gardeners, &c., &c. No person, in short, who is able and willing to engage in manual labour of any kind, with good wages and cheap living, need be unemployed.

For persons in business, whether as shopkeepers or otherwise, the increase of population, from the present unprecedented emigration to the gold fields, is opening up new and highly favourable prospects in the nu-

merous towns that are rapidly rising up all over the colony; many of which, from their favourable situation, must necessarily become places of great importance as centres of trade for extensive districts in a very few years. For although some of these towns are at a great distance from the gold fields, they are all experiencing the benefit of the great discovery in one way or other. It would be of no service to the intending emigrant to enumerate the principal towns throughout the colony, or to give him a census of their population. Suffice it to say, that in all the great divisions of the colony—southward, westward, and northward, both on the coast and in the interior—there are already towns of considerable population, in which numerous respectable families could establish themselves in all those branches of business that are carried on in the provincial towns of the mother-country, with the fairest prospects of success.

But there will always be a large proportion of the emigrants to Australia, especially those with large families and limited means, who, whether they have been accustomed to business or not in this country, will go out expressly to settle on land, and to cultivate the soil. Now, I am decidedly of opinion that for all such emigrants, New South Wales presents a much more favourable prospect at the present moment than Port Phillip; inasmuch as the farmer in that colony can produce, in any quantity, and with a comparatively small amount, both of capital and labour, an article of great commercial value, and in constant demand in the home market, which the farmer in Port Phillip cannot—I mean cotton. The farmer in Port Phillip can grow nothing that cannot be grown equally well, and to any conceivable extent, in some part or other of New South Wales. And as the colonial market for farm produce is very limited, while the competition will, ere long, be greatly increased, not only by emigrants from home, but by successful miners from the diggings, who will invest their newly-acquired wealth

in land to settle on, as many of them are doing already; the probability is, that farm produce of all kinds in Port Phillip will fall to a very low price in a very few years. But there is an unlimited field for the growth of cotton in New South Wales, where that article of produce can be grown of the first quality, and with very little labour comparatively; and there is a constant demand for this article of produce in the home market, at a price that will prove highly remunerating to the colonial farmer.

COTTON-GROWING IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

The experiments in cotton-growing in New South Wales have been in progress for seven years past, and have been attended with unlooked-for success. It has been ascertained satisfactorily that it can be grown of the finest quality on the banks of a whole series of tide rivers, available for steam navigation, for a distance of upwards of 500 miles, from Sydney to Wide Bay, a settlement on the east coast. I brought home lately not fewer than nine specimens of Australian cotton from three or four of the rivers on this coast, and the following is an extract of the correspondence which has taken place on the subject with the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, to which it was submitted for a report on its quality and value, from *The Daily News* of the 21st July, 1852.

Some specimens of cotton grown in Australia have been submitted, by the Rev. Dr. Lang, to the examination of Mr. Thomas Bazley, President of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce; and the opinion of this gentleman, who is acknowledged to be a first-rate judge of the qualities of cotton, will be read with great interest, as showing that this quarter of the world gives promise of becoming one of the finest cotton-fields which have yet been discovered in our colonies, if not, indeed, in the world. The samples of cotton were accompanied by the following schedule, giving a brief history of each description of cotton:—

1. In the small canvass bag, grown by Dr. Hobbs, of Brisbane, Moreton Bay, in latitude 27deg., from seed labelled "Owen's superior." The locality is on a tide river, about fifteen miles from the sea.

2. Small specimens of cotton in the seed, grown at Ipswich, on the Bremer River, a tributary of the Brisbane, about forty miles from the sea, in the same latitude. N.B. This specimen deserves particular attention, as it is the only one that affords satisfactory data for estimating the produce per acre, which in this instance was 920 lb. in the seed.

It was grown by a Mr. Douglas, of Dunlop, who had no means of cleaning it, and who sold it to Mr. Brierley, of Sydney, at 2½d. per lb. It was sown on the 1st of October, corresponding to our April; it did not come up till the 21st of the month, when there had been some rain; the season afterwards was dry and warm, but the drought in no way affected the plants; they began to bloom in the middle of December, our midsummer in the southern hemisphere; the picking commenced on the 20th of February, corresponding to August in England; and it lasted four months, during which time the plants continued blooming and producing fresh pods, till checked by the frost. Estimating the wages of a labourer at £20 a-year, with liberal rations, the cost of labour, in preparing the ground and picking the cotton, &c., was £5, which, even at the rate at which it was sold, left £4 11s. 8d. as profit on the experiment. It could be grown to any extent were there a central establishment on the river for picking it, which could easily be effected, as the two rivers are traversed in both directions every lawful day by two steamboats.

3. A small specimen of "Big Cream" cotton, grown by the Rev. Mr. Gibson, formerly of Jamaica, now of Clarence River, in latitude 29½ deg. south.

4. Another specimen from Mr. Gibson's plat in the seed. Mr. Gibson considers it admirably adapted to the soil and climate.

5. Also grown by Mr. Gibson, Clarence River, from different seed.

6. From Dunmore, Hunter's River, latitude 32½ deg. grown by A. Lang, Esq., J. P.

7. Small specimens in the seed, from the same river, opposite side, grown by Mr. Scobie.

8. Grown by J. Bucknell, Esq., Patterson's River,—the second year's crop from the same plants. They stand the winter quite well, and Mr. Bucknell says the yield is finer, and more abundant, the second year than the first. The Patterson is a tributary of the Hunter, in latitude 32½ deg.

9. An additional specimen from Mr. Bucknell's—in the seed.

The following is Mr. Bazley's answer, as submitted through the secretary of the Chamber:—

*"Chamber of Commerce and Manufactures,
Manchester, July 15, 1852.*

"REVEREND SIR—I have submitted the samples of Australian cotton, sent by you to the Chamber yesterday, to the criticism of our president, Thomas Bazley, Esq., whose knowledge and judgment in such matters are not surpassed by any gentleman connected with the trade. He has instructed me to make the following report thereon, according to the numbers adopted in your schedule:—

"No. 1. Grown by Dr. Hobbs, of Brisbane: Excellent cotton, and in perfect condition for the spinner: value 22d. per lb.

"No. 2. Grown by Mr. Douglas, of Ipswich: Really beautiful cotton; worth, if perfectly cleaned, 2s. per lb.

"No. 3. Grown by the Rev. Mr. Gibson, 'Big Cream': Very good cotton, but not well got up; worth 21d. per lb.

"No. 4. Grown by the same: Very excellent, and in good condition; worth 23d. per lb.

"No. 5. Grown by the same: Excellent cotton; worth 22d. per lb.

"No. 6. Grown by A. Lang, Esq.: Short-stapled cotton, of the New Orleans class; worth 5½d. per lb.

"No. 7. Grown by Mr. Scobie: Good cotton; worth 20d. per lb.

"No. 8. Grown by J. Bucknell, Esq.: Good and useful cotton, but of the common Sea Island class; now worth 18d. per lb.

"No. 9. Grown by the same: Like the preceding; worth 17d. per lb.

"I am further instructed to assure you, that in the preceding estimates Mr. Bazley has been careful to keep within the limits which his own appreciation of their worth would have led him to fix; and I am to express his opinion that such superior and excellent attributes of perfect cotton have been rarely seen in Manchester, and that your samples indisputably prove the capability of Australia to produce most useful and beautiful cotton, adapted to the English markets, in a range of value from 6d. to 2s. 6d. per lb.

"I am, Reverend Sir, your most obedient Servant,

THOMAS BOOTHMAN, Secretary.

"The Rev. John Dunmore Lang, D.D.,
Brunswick Hotel, Manchester."

It thus appears that cotton-growing will not cost more than £5 per acre; probably considerably less than that amount would be sufficient, if it were grown in quantity. It is also estimated that the average yield

of clean cotton is 300 to 350 lbs. to the acre ; and it has now been ascertained that such cotton as can be grown with perfect facility, and to any extent, in Australia, will be worth from 1s. 6d. to 2s. per lb.

There are not fewer than ten rivers available for steam navigation, between Sydney and the Wide Bay River, on the coast of New South Wales, on the banks of which there are millions of acres of the finest land, on which cotton of the finest quality could be grown by the British settler, now lying waste, and waiting for an industrious population to take possession of it. These rivers are, the Manning, the Hastings, the Macleay, the Bellingen, the Clarence, the Richmond, the Tweed, the Logan, the Brisbane, the Pine river, and the Wide Bay river, besides minor streams, and tributaries, some of which are navigable also. The whole of these rivers, moreover, are situated in one of the finest climates in the world, and there is already a regular steam communication between Sydney and two of them, the Clarence and the Brisbane, on both of which there are flourishing settlements formed, with ample room for thousands and tens of thousands of emigrants.

As the Clarence River is about half way between the two extremities of the long line of coast between Sydney and Wide Bay, and may be taken as a fair specimen of the general capabilities of the whole of the rivers on that coast, as to soil, climate, and water-carriage, I shall subjoin the following extracts from reports on the subject, furnished by the following gentlemen, respectively, viz., Oliver Fry, Esq., J. P., Commissioner of Crown Lands in the Clarence and Richmond River District ; S. A. Perry, Esq., Deputy Surveyor General of New South Wales ; Mr. Surveyor Wilson, and the Rev. John Gibson, resident Presbyterian minister. The reports from which the first three of the following series of extracts are taken were written in or before the year 1840, the last in the year 1851.

Report of the Capabilities of the Clarence and Richmond Rivers, by OLIVER FRY, Esq. J. P., Commissioner of Crown Lands for the Clarence District of New South Wales.

The Border Police District of Clarence River, extending from the 28th to the 30th degree of south latitude, is bounded on the east by the Pacific, and on the west by the northern extremity of the great Liverpool range. It is divided into three almost equal portions by the rivers Clarence and Richmond, which receive their sources in the above-named range, and flow from thence in parallel directions, diverging from north-west to south-east, till they reach the coast, the former falling into the ocean at Shoal Bay, the latter about forty miles farther to the northward. In addition to these rivers, the district is intersected at various points by several other minor streams, both tributary and independent; but as none of them can be said to hold forth inducements to an agricultural population equal to those presented by the Clarence and Richmond, I shall confine my observations to these two rivers, and to such localities in their immediate vicinity as, from being accessible by means of steam communication, are obviously the most eligible for the establishment of the description of immigrants you propose to introduce.

The Clarence, in common with all the other rivers on the east coast of New Holland, labours under the disadvantage of a bar entrance; but as the depth of water on it is seldom less than fourteen feet, it cannot be considered as presenting any obstacle to the navigation of the river, by steamers of even moderate power, however serious an impediment it might prove to sailing vessels of large tonnage. Outside the bar is a small bay formed by the South Head, capable of affording shelter to vessels, in the event of there being any obstruction either from wind or tide, to their immediately pursuing their course up the river, which once having gained an entrance they can do with facility, it requiring but a very simple and easily attained knowledge, to render its navigation perfectly safe and practicable even by night; for up to the settlement, which is situated about forty-five miles from its embouchure, it may be said to be almost devoid of hindrance of any description—rocks occurring but in two places, and these from being easily recognised, are consequently avoided without any difficulty. In depth it varies from three to five fathoms, its average width exceeding half a mile. If the term *navigable* be only applied to that portion of a river accessible to vessels capable of contending with the navigation of the Clarence must be regarded as terminating at the Settlement, which, as I have already

situated about forty-five miles from its mouth, though there is nothing whatever to prevent a small description of steamer from plying at least five-and-twenty miles higher up; vessels being almost everywhere able throughout this entire distance to lie close alongside the shore—a circumstance of considerable advantage to the future residents on the banks of the river, as it would dispense with the necessity of their being obliged to have recourse to any particular locality for the purpose of shipping their commodities or receiving their supplies.

The country in the vicinity of the Clarence may be described in the neighbourhood of the Heads as wearing the aspect of low sandy downs, a peculiarity, however, which is confined to the coast. For a few miles higher up the river, it is succeeded by extensive swamps, the immediate borders of the stream being covered with a dense impervious brush; and this continues to be its general character for the distance of about twenty miles inland, when it becomes more elevated, more open, and of an infinitely better description. After passing this point, it may be briefly characterized, for nearly thirty miles, as a series of thinly timbered flats, occasionally intersected by detached portions of the hills which form the basin of the Clarence, running down to the verge of the water; a belt of brush (varying in width from one to four hundred yards) fringing the stream all the way up. As it is to these flats (so obviously intended by nature for the production of grain, and so favourably situated for its exportation) that the agriculturist would undoubtedly have recourse, I shall endeavour to convey an idea of their character. They are of various sizes; many of them extending along the river for miles, the soil being a deep, dark alluvial deposit, on a substratum of clay, covered at the top by a layer of vegetable decomposition, the accumulation of ages; and so thinly timbered that isolated acres may be found unencumbered by a single tree. The astonishing vegetation with which they are clothed is almost inconceivable, such indeed as I have never witnessed elsewhere, save in the equally favoured regions on the Richmond. It is impossible to imagine a country more worthy of having bestowed upon it the labour of the husbandman, or one more likely to remunerate him for his toil, than the localities to which I refer, as they are remarkable not alone for the excellence of the land, but for being placed under a climate, than which none can be more congenial to the process of vegetation. Of this brush land, on their edges, I consider it almost unnecessary to speak, because brush soil is universally known to be of the most fertile description, and because the expense of clearing would be such as (for a considera-

ble period) to render it unavailable to the recently established immigrant. It could not, however, be considered as a disadvantage, having a portion of brush-land attached to each farm, inasmuch as it would not only afford timber for building, but would yield a ready, and almost inexhaustible supply of fuel for domestic purposes, and by this means become gradually cleared. Were it, however, my province to determine on such situations as were most eligible, those possessed of a fruitful soil, in proximity with a never-failing supply of good water, I should select an island situated about twelve miles below the Settlement, and two flats, one on the south side of the river, opposite the Settlement, the other on the north bank, about twenty miles higher up. The probable area of the island may be about thirty square miles, the greater part of which is capable of being subdivided into farms, each possessing the advantage of being accessible to vessels.

The description which I have given of the country in the vicinity of the Clarence will, with little exception, be equally applicable to that on the banks of the Richmond; the only difference being that where I have employed the word *Flat*, in speaking of the former, I should use the epithet *Plain*, when alluding to the corresponding localities on the latter—a distinction to which their vastly greater size, and almost total exemption from timber, justly entitles them. Indeed so great is their extent, that the river flows through an almost perfectly level valley, (seldom less than twelve miles wide,) for at least forty miles; nature displaying an inexhaustible fertility in the soil adjacent to its course, though in proportion as you recede from its banks, the land becomes less rich, and vegetation assumes a less luxuriant aspect. A striking peculiarity in these plains arises from the circumstance, that although surrounded by trees of a hundred varieties, still in surveying their vastness the eye seeks in vain for even a single shrub upon which to rest; whether it be that nature has denied the germs of trees to these fertile localities, or whether they were once covered with forests subsequently destroyed, forms a question rather difficult to resolve; as the country on the banks of the Richmond is in general plentifully supplied with water, even below the point at which the river ceases to be fresh. It would be altogether absurd my endeavouring to indicate any particular situation as being more eligible than another; let it, therefore, suffice to say, (and I am sure I do not speak unadvisedly when I assert,) that there is a sufficiency of land of the most astonishingly fertile nature, in the valley of the Richmond, to afford ample scope for the entire surplus population of Britain, even without

infringing to any injurious extent upon the rights of the Squatter.

The productions of every country in an agricultural point of view, (with the exception perhaps of the valley of the Nile, and a few others where irrigation is had recourse to,) depending not less on the climate than on the quality of the soil, I conceive that an effort to describe the climate, throughout the district of Clarence River, will not be exceeding the limits of the information you require. An almost complete realization of Fenelon's conception, with reference to Calypso's isle, is exhibited in the climate on the Clarence, as without any great degree of hyperbole, a perpetual spring may be said to prevail during the entire year; for so mild are the seasons, that vegetation remains unchecked even in the midst of the so-called winter. Rain is abundant, so much so as to give rise to the opinion that the district is unsuited for pastoral purposes, at least so far as sheep are concerned. Frost is very unfrequent, and never intense. As may be inferred from its geographical position, the heat in summer is considerable, but an excess of two or three days is almost invariably succeeded by thunder-showers, which, for a time, cool and render invigorating the air, occasionally causing an extraordinary rapid change of temperature, the thermometer having been frequently known to vary not less than forty degrees in the space of twelve hours. This sudden caprice of temperature is, however, not in the least creative of unhealthiness: on the contrary, I am satisfied there is no part of New South Wales, however justly it may be famed for the salubrity of its climate, which is more conducive to the health of the human body than the district of Clarence River: indeed most others must be confessed to yield to it in this respect, inasmuch as the never-fading mantle of green, in which it is perpetually clothed, shields its inhabitants from those ophthalmic diseases so prevalent in other parts of the Colony.

On the whole, a four years' residence in the district has confirmed me in the opinion, that no country ever came from the hands of its Creator more eminently qualified to be the abode of a thriving and numerous population, than the one of which I have been speaking; and in forming this estimate I have been uninfluenced either by prejudice, or by interest, being no way connected with it, save in that arising from my official capacity.

Report on the Clarence River by S. A. PERRY, Esq., Deputy-Surveyor General of New South Wales.

Round a low wooded island, on the west side of the Bay, flows the river (perhaps miscalled, for it appears to be still but an arm of the sea), and which is of majestic beauty. Its breadth may be averaged at half-a-mile, and the depth varying from five to nine fathoms—on each side the banks present a deep belt of the most luxuriant forest-brush upon soil of the richest description—the breadth of the brush seldom exceeds the eighth of a mile, behind which are extensive reedy swamps and slight undulations. There are no lofty mountains very near the coast; a few miles above the island above-mentioned, the river breaks to the northward into a delta. I went a considerable distance up the principal branch, and found everywhere excellent land of a light description, some of the nooks presenting pine brushes. The height of the pine trees, at the full growth, is about ninety feet, and they are as straight as an arrow. Their timber is light, close-grained, and admirably adapted for floorings, as well as for masts of small vessels. About fifteen miles above Shoal Bay, the river breaks into two arms, both of which are navigable. The northern is the principal arm of the river, and along its banks, which are clothed with brush, less dense than lower down, the land is rich and deep, and throwing out many splendid specimens of the great native fig-tree, a species of caoutchouc, from the upper branches of which festoons of cane resembling the sugar cane frequently occur. The island formed by the union of the north and south arms of the river, contains, by estimation, 40,000 acres of land, the greater part of which is of excellent quality, and its advantages for the location of a settlement of industrious persons are obvious. When I visited it, (and I walked from one end to the other) there were but two families living upon it—one was managing a dairy-farm, and the other building a vessel of 150 tons burthen for the coasting trade. The eastern part of the island consists of a small range of mountains about 400 feet high, commanding views up and down the river, (which, at this point bears a strong resemblance to the Rhine, between Coblenz and Nieuwied,) and to the Great South Pacific. This mountain, with its lateral branches, affords pasturage for cattle, and a limited number of sheep. Between it and the northern arm of the river is a lagoon of fresh water, of the most delicious coolness, and clear as crystal, around which the land is of the richest description, being the alluvial deposit from the mountain. For a considerable distance beyond the lagoon (westward)

the land is still of a grazing character, and so continues till about the middle of the island, from whence, to the south-west extremity, it is of surpassing fertility—the grass, as we walked through it, was above our heads, and so thick, that it was requisite during the whole of our walk to perform with our arms something like the action of swimming, and to keep near together lest we should lose our leader in the long grass. In the brushes by which the island is margined, and on the opposite banks (particularly on the south side) there was abundance of cedar, which has now been considerably thinned by the parties licensed by the Government to cut it for export. About midway between the lagoon above-mentioned, and the south-west extremity of the island, is another lagoon; and in fact there is no scarcity of water. On the opposite bank near the south-west extremity of the island, a small river taking its rise in the marshes at the foot of the mountains between the Clarence and the Orara, flows through a rich country, more varied in surface than the island. From this river to the confluence of the Orara with the Clarence, a distance of nearly thirty miles, by a depth of three to five miles, all the land is admirably adapted for cultivation—the maize produced upon such parts of it as have been cultivated is equal to any I have seen, and is a never-failing crop, easy of cultivation, and always commanding a market, as forage for horses, or for the fattening of pigs, poultry, &c.; but the part between the river last-mentioned and the Clarence is far superior, as a country for cultivation, to any of an equal extent that I have seen. In one block of about 30,000 acres, there appears to be scarcely an acre of what may be called indifferent land, and the whole is so intersected with streams and fresh water marshes, that if such a block were divided into farms of 300 acres, each farm would have its proportion of the advantages common to the whole. On the north-west side of the Clarence, that is to say, between the Clarence and the Richmond Rivers, the land is nearly of similar character, extensive reedy swamps near the river, and from thence gentle undulations as far as the right bank of the Richmond.

The facilities of settling upon these lands are known only to those who have experienced the life of a bushman in Australia, where, during any part of the year, a few nights may be passed under the canopy of heaven, if necessary, without the slightest injury to health. But such a resource is wholly unnecessary; for a couple of men with axes will, in the course of a few hours, peel as much bark from the gigantic trees with which the country is sprinkled, as would suffice to lodge temporarily a very large family—this is the first step towards location. The next is to fell a number of

the smaller trees, dress them roughly, and form with them buildings, or framework for buildings, of a character somewhat more permanent, or to split the larger timber into slabs, both for buildings, and to form enclosures for cattle.

On many of the large plains I have alluded to, there are not more than two or three trees to the acre, and the land is totally devoid of underwood or coppice. The agriculturist has, therefore, merely to cut the bark from around the lower part of these trees, if he have not time or assistance to fell them; they will then wither, and he may without further process commence his ploughing, and the first crop of maize which he will pluck within six months after sowing, should be at the rate of about sixty bushels to the acre. If he should arrive in the winter season, when he will still be in time to put in wheat, he should enclose, at first, two or three acres, and plant them with cuttings of the vine, which flourishes extremely well in this climate, and in the second year his heart will be made glad with wine of his own growth.

Meanwhile cattle, which can now be purchased at a very moderate price, and perhaps one small flock of sheep, may graze on the neighbouring hills, as they require no other tending than that of one of the youngsters of the family.

I should add, with respect to the large island mentioned, that coasting vessels loaded with cattle or other produce, can lie along-side at the eastern extremity by a sort of natural wharf, which adds materially to the importance of the position.

S. A. PERRY, *Deputy-Surveyor-General.*

11th March, 1846.

P.S.—With respect to the climate, I make the latitude of the mouth of the Clarence 29 deg. 20 min. S., and although rather hot in the day-time, I have never heard of the existence of any epidemic diseases. From the month of April, during the winter, frosts occur at night; I have seen ice the thickness of a shilling on the water when I rose in the morning. I usually slept with a fire in my room, from which I felt no inconvenience.

Surveyor's Description of the Parish of Ulmarra, on the Clarence River, consisting of upwards of 25,000 acres.

The soil of this parish is of a light, rich alluvial formation, with a substratum of strong clay, and contains no stone whatever. It is highly calculated for agricultural purposes. The forest brush is very thick on the banks of the rivers, but this is chiefly on account of the vines and other parasitical plants, which are easily cleared away. Most of the

reedy plains are swampy in the rainy season, and dry in summer. They are intersected by numerous wet ditches and water holes, and might be drained with great advantage at a comparatively trifling expense.

The Clarence River is on an average, from 450 to 600 yards wide, having steep banks, with a depth of from six to twenty feet of water, which gradually deepens about the centre, from 30 to 40 and 60 feet. The tide rises about two feet six inches. The banks of the river are from 10 to 25 feet above the high water mark.

The Coldstream River, (one of its tributaries) is in some places 120 yards wide, but its average width is from 55 to 70 yards. Its banks are abrupt, and its depth from 14 to 25 feet. It is navigable for vessels of 70 tons burthen. There is plenty of water throughout this parish, except on the immediate banks of the Clarence, where, however, it may always be procured by sinking wells.

The timber consists chiefly of oak (*casuarina*), gum, turpentine, cedar, fig, nettle, rosewood, *flindersia*, hickory, with a great many species of scrub wood.

(Signed)

W. C. B. WILSON, *Contract-Surveyor.*

5th Dec., 1841.

Report of the Capabilities of the Clarence and Richmond River Districts for Cotton Cultivation, by the REV. JOHN GIBSON, Presbyterian Minister for these districts, &c.

The Clarence and Richmond River districts are of great fertility and value, and are well adapted for grazing large flocks of sheep and herds of cattle, and for supporting an immense agricultural population.

The climate is very healthy, and European labourers are, with few exceptions, equal to any kind of labour. The heat in summer on certain days is intense, (the thermometer sometimes rising to 100 deg. in the shade,) but these hot days generally terminate in hail or thunder-storms and southerly winds, when the air becomes most cool and delightful. These very hot days are only occasional; generally we have bright, spring-like weather. Although the days may be hot, the nights are cool and pleasant. In the tropics the air is more humid and oppressive, which soon enfeebles the constitution; whereas here people are healthy and strong; and many are very industrious, summer and winter. There need be no apprehension on the score of health. Of course, no place on earth is exempt from sickness and death; but here there are few cases of sickness and mortality—th

marvel is, there are not more, considering the hard, exposed, and intemperate lives of many.

The scenery here is for the most part monotonous, although from many of the ranges there are some fine, bold views, reminding me of the magnificent scenery of Jamaica. Had we less timber, and more cultivation, we should have much to delight the lovers of the picturesque; however, even now, there is as much difference between this place and your Sydney sand hills, as between a desert and a tropical garden.

The Clarence and Richmond Rivers have, in common with others in Australia, bar entrances, which are great drawbacks; but with steamers this may, in a great measure, be overcome.* Very few wrecks occur on the bars, although the Clarence has about six sailing vessels, and the Richmond twelve or more, taking in cedar. These vessels are from 60 to 130 tons, and cross the bars when wind and tide serve safely, and sail up the Clarence 45 miles, and some 80 up the Richmond. The length of the Clarence, which takes its rise in New England, is about 140 miles, and it is salt for nine months in the year for about twelve miles above the township. Its average width is half a mile, and it is navigable fifty miles. It is a magnificent river, unsurpassed by any in the colony, and reminding one of the Thames. The banks have belts of beautiful scrub fringing the water, and covered with parasitical plants, vines, and creepers, forming a beautiful drapery.

The trees on the banks of the Clarence, are chiefly the Indian-fig, the gum, swamp-oak, turpentine, cedar, (now nearly exhausted, save in the mountain scrubs and other places on the river which are too far to pay,) nettle, hickory, and many other scrub-trees, tall, thick, and ancient-looking. The banks of the Richmond look, in places, more tropical; having great numbers of tall mountain cabbage trees, and tall, stout, and splendid pines. Also, in the inland scrubs, some of the finest cedars in the colony are found.

The rivers abound with fine fish—eels, cod, herrings, perch, mullet, bream, guardfish, pike, jackfish, oysters, shrimps, &c. A fisherman would do well at this river. At present our principal fishermen are the blacks, and porpoises,† which come fifty miles up the river.

There are many wild ducks, geese, swans, pelicans, cranes, kingfishers, &c., on the rivers, creeks, and lagoons; and on land, crows, eagle-hawks, pigeons, cockatoos, and parrots of

* There is now a regular communication by steam vessels between Sydney and the Clarence River.

† This is the actual fact: the porpoises drive the fish into the nets of the black natives, who have consequently a great respect for them.

exquisite plumage, curlews, settlers' clocks, and various small sparrow birds.

The land on both rivers is composed of rich alluvial soil for many miles up the river, and is well adapted for the cultivation of wheat, (the weevil injures it if kept long,) oats, barley, maize, cotton, coffee, sugar-cane, (the cane does not arrow in this district as in the West Indies,) oranges, bananas, pines, apples, plums, rice, and a variety of other European and tropical productions. What we want to add to the beauty and value of these splendid districts is, to line the banks with the neat cottages and well-cultivated farms and gardens of a virtuous and industrious peasantry. It is a thousand pities our selfish and sluggish Government does not facilitate the sale of small farms on this river and the Richmond, now lying waste and unoccupied, when there are so many thousands of our countrymen dragging out a miserable existence at home. Under an American Government, in five years, this district would be the wonder of this Northern Colony.

Before I proceed to answer your questions relative to the capabilities of the Clarence and Richmond districts for cotton cultivation, I feel I ought to bear testimony to the truth of your statements in "Cook'sland," respecting the soil, climate, and capabilities of these districts for the settlement of a large agricultural population. The only drawbacks are the river "bar," and the want of good water at North Grafton. The south side of the township has a creek of fine fresh water and some good water holes, and, for a small outlay, we might have an abundance of fine water. It was certainly a great error of judgment to fix on a site for a township where there is very little water, and that bad, when by going some ten miles up the river, there is an unlimited supply of the best water, and excellent stone for building.

I repeat, that the climate and soil of these districts are admirably adapted for the cultivation of cotton and sugar on a most extensive scale, without materially interfering with the squatting interests. In these fertile and well-watered districts there are immense plains of rich black alluvial soil, and fine belts of rich scrub-land on the banks of the rivers, capable of supporting a large number of industrious emigrants; and, from what I have seen of cotton, sugar-cane, oranges, bananas, tobacco, wheat, maize, and other vegetables, that grow most luxuriantly, I have no apprehension about compensation for toil and outlay. At present, the squatters are the great monopolists, and have the pre-emptive right of purchase of any land at the upset price of \$1 per acre. Were there facilities afforded by Government to purchase small farms, parties with a little capital and

large families would soon be comfortable, if not quite independent. Of course, there would be hardships in the beginning, as in all new colonies; but, as steamers and other vessels navigate the Clarence, any supplies could be brought at a cheap rate from Sydney. Moreover, there are four or five stores and four inns at the Clarence, so that there would be no difficulty in procuring food and clothing, &c.

1. With regard to your first question, "the extent of the land fit for cotton cultivation in both districts."

It is my opinion, that about two-thirds of the area of the Clarence and Richmond districts are well adapted for cotton cultivation. Thousands of families could cultivate cotton on the Richmond plains. There are many inland scrubs with the richest soil and without a stone, where I think the coffee plant would grow luxuriantly, if not profitably. I rode through twelve miles of this land, which is rather red, and resembled our Jamaica coffee soil. I should say, that immense plantations of cotton and sugar could be established, from the Clarence to the furthest northern point, if a profitable market could be found for the produce. At present, wages, &c., are too high to make these articles profitable. Population, to a great extent, is essential to this branch of agriculture, which will doubtless flow here through the great gold magnet.

2. The facilities for cotton cultivation, and its adaptation to the habits of British farmers.

The facilities for cotton-growing would be greater on the plains than on the banks of the rivers, although the latter soil is always richer, being a vegetable deposit that has been accumulating for ages. On some of the plains there are scarcely any trees to obstruct the plough, so that, as soon as the long grass was burned off, and the land enclosed, a cotton plantation could be quickly established. The British farmer would, after preparing the ground by the plough and harrow, find the work comparatively easy. The land ought to be ploughed up at least two or three months before the seed is planted. The seed should be put in the ground in October, in straight lines, at a distance of three feet apart in each line, each row being also three feet apart. About three seeds should be planted in each hole, and then covered two or three inches with earth. An acre is supposed to yield from 300 to 350 lbs. The methods for planting and cleaning are similar to those adopted in maize cultivation, either by hoe or plough.

3. With respect to the "profitableness of cotton cultivation," I am not qualified from experience to give a correct judgment; but from the samples grown in this and the

Richmond district, I am strongly of opinion that it would be profitable, especially to large families. I have seen cotton trees here nine feet high, and some bearing 150 pods: the soil on which this was grown was forest land, and rich. The samples I sent you some time ago, I think you will say, are a fine staple, and would fetch from 10d. to 1s. per lb.* I am growing about a hundred trees by way of further experiment this year; but the problem is already solved, that cotton will grow here to any extent. The cotton I saw in Jamaica was much coarser and weaker in staple than that grown here. The trees here are slightly withered by the frost; but, since spring came, they are growing vigorously again.

With the cotton cultivation, emigrants could combine tropical as well as European fruits and vegetables. With capital, population, and industry, these districts would be the garden and pride of Australia. Let the Government sell the land, as they ought, to small settlers of virtue and enterprise, and our prosperity and happiness would increase a thousand-fold! It is painful to those who love "the human face divine," and wish the greatest possible amount of happiness for the greatest possible number, to see these rich lands lying waste and uninhabited, while hundreds of thousands are just dragging out a mere existence, and probably the workhouse awaiting them in their old age, in England, who might here plant their cotton-fields, vineyards, and oliveyards, and eat the fruit thereof, and in a few years leave a comfortable freehold and plantation for their children.

With a large religious population thus employed, and blessed with an earnest Gospel ministry, this wilderness would soon be glad, and the moral desert blossom as the rose. To the capitalist, and also to the industrious poor, I would say, as Moses said of Canaan, that it "is a good land,"—a land of rivers, creeks, and lagoons of water! Here we have the flocks and herds of patriarchal times: we only require the piety of the ancient squatters, and vine and olive dressers, and then should our neighbours say, "Happy is that people that is in such a case; yea, happy is that people whose God is the Lord."

GENERAL REMARKS.

Here, then, is a field of boundless extent and of wonderful promise for the settlement of families and individuals of limited means and moderate views. Besides all the articles of farm produce that are required for the sustenance and comfort of man, there

* Worth respectively 21d., 22d., and 23d. per lb. See page 44.

can be grown along the extensive coast I have described an article of export, requiring no outlay of capital to engage in it beyond the mere labour of ploughing and sowing, and affording a speedy, certain, and highly remunerative, return. The cost of production has been ascertained not to exceed £5 per acre; the average return is estimated, by the Rev. Mr. Gibson, to be not less than a bale (of 300 lbs. of clean cotton) per acre; and the value of that cotton has been declared, by the highest authority in Manchester, to be from 1s. 6d. to 2s. per pound. There is no prospect for agriculturists in any part of the world equal to this; and then there is water-carriage, procurable by means of steam navigation, on all the rivers above-mentioned; with river-steam-boats also, as is actually the case already on the Brisbane River, plying every day up or down for 50 miles past the very door. In Port Phillip there is no such thing as water-carriage for the conveyance of farm produce to the best market in the colony. Everything of that kind must be done by means of horse-wagons, or bullock-drays, which forms a very serious item in the expenditure of a farmer. Carriage at present in Port Phillip is enormously high—£80 per ton to Mount Alexander, distant only 75 miles.

The growth of cotton on the rivers above-mentioned affords a noble prospect for the unsuccessful miner, as well as for those who will soon get disgusted, even although they are doing tolerably well, with the life of a miner. Port Phillip has nothing to offer such persons, but hiring as shepherds or farm servants, or growing grain and potatoes for the colonial market. But an unsuccessful miner can, with one-fourth of the labour which gold mining implies, and with a very small expenditure, establish himself as a cotton planter, with the fairest prospect of eventual independence, while his situation will, in the meantime, be incomparably more comfortable in every respect than that of the miner. Besides, the *Hanging Rock* diggings, which are expected to turn

out the best in New South Wales, and perhaps to equal those of Mount Alexander, are within 150 miles of the Clarence River; and the settler on that river, where horses are remarkably cheap, might easily transfer himself, if he chose, for a few months during the slack season of the year, to these diggings. If a few families, or individuals, were acting in concert, so as to leave somebody behind to look after everything while the others were absent for a few months, this might be done with the greatest facility. This, in fact, has been actually done by certain members of two families that I know, that are settled as farmers on the coast of New South Wales. Three young men, whose families are settled near the Manning River, went to California, and were there for a year, working for a time as draymen, in San Francisco, with horses and carts which the captain of their vessel had carried over with him, on speculation, from Sydney, and then going to the mines. They had been very successful during their absence. I saw two of them on their return, in November, 1850; and they are now at the Hanging Rock, and doing remarkably well, returning occasionally at seed-time and harvest to assist in the labours of the farm. These young men could have gone to Port Phillip as easily as many others; but from what they had seen in California, they thought they had a good enough gold country nearer home.

On the whole, I am decidedly of opinion, that the colony of New South Wales, (and especially the cotton fields of that colony,) afford at this moment a much more eligible prospect for reputable families of limited means proposing to settle on land than Port Phillip. The cost of settlement in New South Wales will be much less at present than in Port Phillip. Equally good land will be obtainable there at a lower price, and will grow an article of agricultural produce that cannot be grown in Port Phillip, and that will always command a market in England. And while the cost

of carriage to such land as a family going out to settle on would be likely to obtain for that purpose, is enormously extravagant in Port Phillip, water-carriage by steamboats to and from the rivers on the cotton-growing coast of New South Wales, renders the cost of conveyance both for persons and goods comparatively small.

There are two points on which virtuous families and individuals will always desire to obtain particular information in going to a new colony, viz.,

RELIGION AND EDUCATION.

There are two systems of education in operation in New South Wales, viz., the National, based on the universally received principles of the Christian religion, but open alike to all parties and peculiar to none; and the Denominational, consisting of schools belonging to the principal religious denominations. The former of these systems is rapidly acquiring the confidence of the public, and is likely to supersede the other very shortly, at least in all the thinly-inhabited parts of the country. A school under the National system was established at the Clarence River on the 1st of January last, and there is no difficulty in getting a school established on that system wherever there is a considerable population. The government contributes two-thirds of the cost of the buildings, and gives the schoolmaster a free house and school, and a salary of £40 a year to begin with, independently of the school-fees. The system in Port Phillip is pretty much the same, although not yet so fully in operation.

The principal denominations of New South Wales are as follows:—

Episcopalians, of the Church of England .	93,137
Roman Catholics	56,899
Presbyterians	18,156
Wesleyan Methodists	10,008
Other Protestants—Independents and Baptists, &c.	6,473

Jews	979
Mahometans and Pagans	852*
Other persuasions	740

Total population	187,243
Of whom there are, Males ..	106,299
Ditto ditto Females	81,014

Most of the denominations above-mentioned have ministers and places of worship, both in town and country, all over the territory, although in many of the more recently settled localities, the provision is still very deficient. It is much easier however to make provision for the support of the ordinances of religion in an agricultural community, where the population is comparatively dense, than in a pastoral community where it is widely dispersed. There would be no difficulty therefore in settling a minister of their own communion in any particular locality if a number of families were emigrating and settling together. Such families, if intending to settle at the Clarence River, would land either at Sydney or Newcastle, in New South Wales, and proceed thence by steamboat to Clarence River. Newcastle is 70 miles nearer the latter river, than Sydney; and as it is the great coal-field of the colony, the steam-boats running along the coast uniformly touch there for coals. It would be a much less expensive place for emigrants to land at than Sydney, and it is at the entrance of one of the finest districts of the colony, viz., that of Hunter's River, which has a population of upwards of 30,000 souls.

* This item has been much increased of late from numerous importations of Chinese labourers—a very questionable importation indeed.

APPENDIX.

It has been deemed expedient to append to the preceding pages the following letters addressed by the author, on the subject of "Cotton Cultivation in Australia," to the Editor of *The Daily News*, and published in that paper :—

London, Aug. 16th, 1852.

On the 21st ult. you did me the favour to publish in the *Daily News* an extract of a letter which I had addressed to the Chamber of Commerce at Manchester, accompanying nine samples of Australian cotton which I had recently brought home with me from New South Wales, together with the report of the president of the chamber as to the qualities and values of these samples respectively. As the subject, however, is one of transcendent importance, not only to New South Wales, but to Great Britain and to the interests of humanity, I beg you will allow me to submit to the consideration of your numerous and intelligent readers the following additional information in regard to it, that the brilliant prospects which the cultivation of cotton in Australia opens up for the manufacturing interest of this country, and for the cause of philanthropy throughout the civilized world, may be understood and appreciated.

In the month of November, 1845, I happened to visit the settlement of Moreton Bay, about 500 miles to the northward of Sydney, for the first time; and during my stay in that part of the territory, I was greatly struck with the vigorous and healthy appearance of a few cotton plants which I observed growing in the garden of an intelligent colonist in the town of Brisbane, merely, however, as an article of curiosity, but with no view to its cultivation. For, as I had seen the cotton plant under cultivation in the Brazils, and had also visited the cotton-growing states of North America, I was sufficiently acquainted with the nature and habits of the plant to be able to form some opinion on the subject. The idea, therefore, that impressed itself upon my mind with peculiar force at the time I refer to, was that the cultivation of cotton in Australia, which I ascertained was perfectly practicable to any conceivable extent by means of British labour, would in all likelihood afford a boundless field of remunerating employment for the redundant population of the United Kingdom, and that, as the produce appeared to be of good quality, it might compete successfully with the slave-grown produce of the United States, and eventually give the death-blow to the institution of slavery itself in America. For it has long been a common observation in that

country that slavery sits on a cotton bale : consequently there is every reason to believe that if the bale can only be withdrawn, in the way of free trade and fair and honourable competition, slavery must fall to the ground. In short, this idea took such hold on my mind, as I gathered a few pods from one of the trees at Brisbane to bring home with me during the following year to England, that I have never lost sight of it since; and all my subsequent experience and observation on the subject only convinces me that the scene my fancy then pictured out will ere long be realized in every particular :—viz, “thousands and tens of thousands of the virtuous and industrious poor of this country transformed into cotton-planters, each with his own smiling freehold and happy home, on the banks of the numerous Australian rivers that fall into the Pacific; sending home the valuable produce of their cotton fields in whole ship-loads to England; underselling Jonathan and his niggers in the markets of London and Liverpool, and thereby compelling him at length—not by lecturing him on abolition, which I believe may be done till doomsday without the slightest effect, but simply by underselling him, which I believe is perfectly practicable, on the fair field of competition—to break every yoke and let the oppressed go free.”

Now, sir, I am sure you will admit that an idea of this kind was well worth making some sacrifice to realize it, and you are doubtless well aware, from your acquaintance with the history of the past, that no idea of anything like the same importance to mankind has ever been realized without subjecting the individual who happened to take it up and endeavoured to work it out, to extraordinary sacrifices, hardships, and discouragements. I have had such discouragements and hardships to encounter, and such sacrifices to make, in endeavouring to work out this great idea during the last seven years, to an extent that will scarcely be credited. It has now brought me home twice to England. On my last visit to this country I naturally enough thought that the Manchester people, who were somewhat interested in the matter, would afford me some countenance and assistance in such a case, but I confess I was rather disappointed in that quarter. They told me, for example, that they only span cotton there, they didn't grow it; and from anything I could learn, they didn't care a rush although Jonathan and his niggers should grow it for them, if they could, to the end of the chapter. I then crossed the Bridge of Sighs, as all colonists must do who have anything to do with Downing street, but was equally unsuccessful there; but being determined that the experiment should be tried at all hazards, I managed, notwithstanding, without assistance of any kind, or from any quarter, to send out three ship-loads of industrious, virtuous,

and Christian people, in the years 1848 and 1849, to form the nucleus of a cotton-growing colony at Moreton Bay. And I am happy to say, that independently of the other objects of their emigration, these people have already transformed that settlement, which was previously at the very bottom of the scale in our colony, into the most intelligent, virtuous, and religious community in Australia. I have also been enabled, in the progress of this great experiment, to plan not fewer than six evangelical ministers at the most important points along the cotton-growing coast, who, in addition to the zealous discharge of their clerical duties, are giving all the assistance they can, some of them most effectually, in carrying out this experiment.

The correspondence that has already appeared on the subject in the *Daily News* (p. 42), exhibits the results of that experiment in the most satisfactory manner. The nine specimens of Australian cotton which I submitted to the Chamber of Commerce at Manchester, and on which so highly gratifying a report has been given by that high authority, were grown in the following localities: viz., two of them on the Brisbane and Bremer Rivers, Moreton Bay, in lat. $27\frac{1}{2}$ deg. S.; three of them at the Clarence River, in lat. $29\frac{1}{2}$ deg. S. The grower of these three specimens was the Rev. John Gibson, a zealous and efficient minister of religion, whom I carried out with me for that district expressly in the year 1849-50. He had previously been eleven years in Jamaica, which I considered a very valuable minor qualification for the semi-tropical country to which he was going, as he was thoroughly acquainted with all the processes of tropical cultivation. Mr. Gibson had left the West Indies shortly before at the point of death; but he is now in vigorous health in the splendid climate of Australia, and able also to make occasional journeys of ten days or a fortnight together, riding from twenty to thirty miles every day, and preaching regularly every evening at the sheep or cattle station at which he happens to spend the night. Mr. Gibson (for whom I procured a small quantity of seed, which he sowed at my request) considers the cotton of the Clarence River both much finer and much longer in the staple than that of Jamaica, and thought it would be worth about a shilling a pound. He gives it as his opinion, that on the Clarence and Richmond Rivers, there is land of the first quality, much of it naturally ready for the plough, for any number of cotton plantations, while he considers both the climate and the cultivation perfectly adapted to the constitution and habits of the British practical farmer. Now, surely it would be infinitely preferable to make the requisite effort to plant a large colony of British practical farmers in such a locality,

especially as the land could easily be made to pay the whole cost of their passage out, than to adopt the course recommended recently by one of your correspondents, viz., to expend large sums in bringing Coolies from India to grow cotton in Jamaica, where the commodity is not less inferior to that of Australia than the climate of the one country is to that of the other.

The four remaining samples of the nine I brought home were all grown on the Hunter and Patterson Rivers, in about $32\frac{1}{2}$ deg. S. lat. It is evident, therefore, that cotton of the first quality for the home market can be grown successfully, and to any conceivable extent, by means of British free labour in Australia, along a coast line of 350 miles north and south. But equally good samples of cotton have been grown as far north on the Australian coast as 26 deg. south, and as far south as lat. 34 deg., although I could not obtain samples from these localities when I left the colony. It follows, therefore, that the cotton-growing region of Australia extends over at least eight degrees of latitude, or about 550 English miles, and it has been ascertained that while the cotton plant in America is merely an annual, from being killed every winter by the intense frost of that country, and requires to be reproduced from the seed every spring, the Australian winter is so peculiarly mild as scarcely to affect the plant in any way, while the produce is both greater and finer the second and following years than it is the first, thereby saving a large amount of labour every year.

Besides, while the Sea Island, or finer description of American cotton, can be grown only along a very limited extent of coast in the United States—in Georgia and South Carolina exclusively—cotton of the finest quality can be grown along the whole extent of that portion of the Australian coast which I have indicated, and the probability is that it will grow equally well in any suitable locality inland to the eastward of the Australian Andes. Of the nine specimens I brought home the only one which proved to be of the short staple, or New Orleans cotton, was a sample grown by my brother, on his property at Hunter's River, from seed which he had procured from the Government Garden at Sydney, the difference between the two descriptions not being known at the time even in that locality.

The cost of production, even in the case of a single acre, has been found not to exceed £5 an acre; but it would be considerably reduced if it were grown on a large scale. The produce on that acre was ascertained to be 920 lbs. in the seed, or 230 lbs. of clean cotton, of which the value has been declared at Manchester to be 2s. per lb., or £23 per acre.

even two-thirds of this amount would afford a handsome return to the planter.

As to the freight home, it is at present very low, and is likely to be so now for many years to come. The ship I came home in had 1,500 bales of wool on board, of which the freight was only a halfpenny per lb., while that of cotton from New Orleans is usually three farthings per lb., although cotton can be packed much closer than wool without hurting the fibre.

I submit, therefore, that I have demonstrated, to the satisfaction of any reasonable person, that cotton of the finest quality for the home market can be grown by means of British free labour to any conceivable extent on the coast of Australia; that the growth of that article of indispensable necessity for the manufactures of this country will prove a highly remunerative employment for tens of thousands of the industrious and virtuous working classes of this country, provided they can only be carried out and settled in sufficient numbers along our coast, of which the climate cannot be surpassed by that of any other country on earth; that there is no difficulty whatever in the way of our competing, and competing successfully and triumphantly, in this department of transmarine industry, with the slaveholders of the United States, and that there is a moral certainty of our being enabled, in a very few years hence, and in the fair and honourable way of free trade and open competition, to give its deathblow to slavery in America. For my own part, I shall be most happy to be "in at the death!" for although I have been led, from what I saw and learnt in the United States myself, when in that country in 1840, to disapprove of the tactics of the Abolitionists, I do not yield to them in any way in my anxiety for the same issue.

The importance of cotton cultivation to Australia, in a moral and social point of view, as compared with that of wool, is incalculable. On an average, it takes ten acres of natural pasture—wild bush-land—to graze three sheep; and the produce of these sheep, at the rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. of wool per head, is only $7\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. altogether. It therefore requires 400 acres of land to grow a single bale of Australian wool of 300 lbs. This necessarily leads to a prodigious dispersion of our pastoral population, and excludes them in great measure from the social, intellectual, moral, and religious advantages of civilized life. But a single acre of land will grow a bale of cotton wool which, it seems, will be equally valuable in the Manchester market; and whereas the growth of sheep's wool in Australia requires a large capital and an extensive establishment, the growth of cotton wool requires only a few.

handfuls of seed, which can be got for sixpence, and the poor man's own labour on his own land. An Irish lady, on whose husband's property two of the samples I brought home were grown, has accordingly very beautifully designated cotton wool in Australia as "the poor man's fleece!" and this, I confess, is the secret of my own efforts these seven years past to get Australia recognised and established in the estimation of the whole civilized world as a great cotton growing country for Europe. For while we have heartless and unprincipled, and, I am sorry to add, influential men enough in our colony to advocate the introduction of Coolies, convicts, and Chinamen, in order to get a sort of mitigated slavery established throughout the country, all the real friends of the colonies are agreed in thinking that our only chance, as a people, of ever attaining a high and influential position, morally, intellectually, and politically, in the civilized world, depends upon our getting a thoroughly British population.

But cotton is not the only slave-grown produce now consumed extensively in the United Kingdom, that we could supply by means of free labour from Australia; tobacco is indigenous, or grows wild, in that country, and is now cultivated pretty extensively, and with eminent success. My late father, who was a practical man and a keen observer, pointed out to me both tobacco and flax (not the *phormium tenax*, or New Zealand flax, but the *linum usitatissimum*, or common flax of Europe) growing wild on my brother's estate at Hunter's River, 22 years ago. The average produce of tobacco in America is 700 lbs. to the acre, but "a ton to the acre is not uncommon" on the William and Patterson Rivers, tributaries of the Hunter, in Australia; and the leaf was selling when I left the colony at 2½d per lb. I expect, therefore, that we shall very soon be able to "serve out" our brother Jonathan in negro-head as well as in cotton—in the Breeding State as well as in the Nullification one; and then let him have the Fisheries, to comfort himself under his loss, by all means. I think he will need them at all events, for I am confident he has never had such a blow given to his commercial system on the one hand, and to his slavery system on the other, as he is destined to receive some of these days from Australia. We have already put both Spain and Germany out of the wool market of England, or nearly so at least, and we have now to put Jonathan and his niggers out of the cotton and tobacco markets; and I am strongly of opinion that the second of these operations will be a much shorter and a much easier one than the first.

"Every truth," however (to use the bold but almost profane language of Lamartine,) "must have its Calvary;" or

in other words, before it can obtain general recognition and establishment in the world, some party or other must be subjected to hardship and suffering on account of it. It was morally impossible, therefore, that so important a truth as the one for which I have been labouring to obtain general recognition and establishment these seven years past, viz., that Australia is destined to be the great cotton field of Europe, and to work out prodigious changes for the better throughout the civilized world, could escape some fierce blast from the bottomless pit; and it is somewhat remarkable that the pit should have been opened for this purpose, like the one of yore in the Forum at Rome, in Downing Street. So it was, however.

In the month of November, 1849, when about to return to Australia, after spending three dreary years in England,—traversing the country, however, in every direction as far as the Orkney and Shetland Islands in the far north, and acquiring much valuable information and experience, which I hope to be able to turn to some account for my adopted country now,—I was led to make a survey of Earl Grey's first three years' notorious misgovernment of the Australian colonies, and to write his lordship a very plain letter on the subject, which was extensively published at the time in the press of this country; reminding him of the promises and pledges he had broken as a professed colonial reformer, and letting him know that the colonists would not be trifled with in such a way much longer—that they would take their case into their own hands, and right themselves in the only way that was left for them,—and that when they did so he would find them very different people to deal with from the Irish incapables of Ballingarry.

This letter, (which was universally approved of in the colonies, and was even printed for circulation at Port Phillip in a separate sheet,) immediately raised the thermometer to fever heat in Downing Street; and a series of trumpery charges were accordingly got up against me in connexion with the emigration I had effected to Moreton Bay, as if it had been a mere money-making speculation on my part; and orders were accordingly sent out to the local government to put me down by all means, fair or foul—a task which I must do them the justice to acknowledge they undertook with all imaginable zeal and earnestness. But the people of England are a generous-hearted people, both at home and abroad; and will never allow an honest man, of whose rectitude of intention they are satisfied, to be put down by any government on earth. So, as the American female help said to her mistress, after she had vainly rung for her thrice successively, "The more you ring, the more I won't come"—the

more the local government endeavoured to put me down, the more the people of New South Wales determined to bear me up—and they succeeded. For a vacancy having unexpectedly occurred in the representation of the city of Sydney, in the year 1850, shortly after my return to the colony, the citizens elected me to fill it, in spite of the utmost efforts of the local government and the enemies of popular rights to keep me out. And when we had sometime thereafter got from the Imperial Parliament, what Earl Grey and the Duke of Argyll facetiously call a New Constitution for the Australian colonies, but what we simple-minded colonists prefer calling by its proper name, a New Sham, worse in some respects and more intolerable than the old one; and when, in consequence of this auspicious change in our circumstances we had a general election for the new legislature in September last, I was not only re-elected for the city of Sydney, the first constituency in the colony, but placed at the head of the poll by the largest majority ever known in the country, although a large number of the middle and working classes, who were generally my supporters, were absent at the gold mines; and this choice of the citizens of Sydney, I can prove, was acquiesced in, and highly approved of by a large majority of the general constituency of the colony, not only in the towns, but in the principal agricultural and pastoral districts.

Now, sir, having obtained this certificate of character from my fellow-colonists, among whom I had lived for nearly 30 years, I took the first opportunity to resign my seat and come home; for although a pecuniary difficulty had arisen in the meantime about my qualification in consequence of my efforts at Moreton Bay, my constituents came forward in the handsomest manner and offered to remove that difficulty; but I respectfully declined their assistance, having previously resolved to come to England, as I was conscious I could be of no service, comparatively, to my fellow-colonists as a member of the new sham legislature we have got, while I was in great hopes of doing some good in various important ways in the present crisis by coming once more to England.

One of these ways is to form a series of agricultural settlements along the various rivers available for steam navigation on the east coast of Australia, from Sydney to the Tropic of Capricorn, for the growth of cotton and other semi-tropical productions. This, I am confident, and shall be happy to show in a future communication, can be done with perfect facility and perfect safety, to the extent of from one hundred thousand to half a million of people—men, women, and children—at the rate of many thousands a year if necessary; provided only the right people are got in the first instance. as I know they can be without the slightest difficulty—

provided the right means are taken for their location and settlement.—I am, &c.

London, August 16, 1852.

Along the line of coast in Australia, on which it has been ascertained, beyond the possibility of doubt, that cotton of superior quality for the manufactures of this country can be grown by means of British free labour to any conceivable extent; viz., from Sydney, in latitude 34, to Wide Bay, in latitude 26 south, that is eight degrees of latitude, or about 550 statute miles, there are not fewer than thirteen tide rivers, all available for steam navigation, and all presenting a greater or less extent of alluvial land of the first quality for the growth of cotton and other semi-tropical produce, on their banks. In other words, there is a river available for steam navigation every forty miles along this whole line of coast, and on the banks of these rivers, three of which have already a regular steam communication with the colonial capital, there are millions of acres of the finest land—much of it ready for the plough—in one of the finest climates in the world. Now, the proposition which I have come home to submit to the people of England, in this important crisis in the history of my adopted country, is, that a series of agricultural settlements should be formed progressively on these rivers, for the growth of cotton and other suitable produce; and I now beg leave to point out in what manner and to what extent this great national object may be accomplished with perfect safety to all concerned, and with perfect facility.

The Australian Land Sales Act of 1842, provides that waste land in Australia shall not be sold for less than one pound per acre, and that of all sales of land in that country one-half of the proceeds shall be appropriated for the promotion of emigration from the United Kingdom, while the other half may be expended in public improvements. Now, I propose that a right shall be acquired progressively under this act, by some Association or Company to be formed for the purpose, to a million, half a million, or a quarter of a million of acres of land in Australia, suitable for the growth of cotton, and other similar produce; and that the necessary emigration for the accomplishment of this great object shall be effected at the instance and under the auspices of such company or association.

From nearly thirty years' experience and observation, I confess I am decidedly averse to the formation of Companies for the accomplishment of colonial objects generally; for so far as I have been enabled to observe, their machinery has

generally been unnecessarily expensive, and their management usually extravagant, while their procedure has not unfrequently been highly irrational, and their results disastrous and ruinous to all concerned. This, however, has doubtless arisen for the most part from a great error in principle in the companies I refer to; viz., their attempting, to do, by means of a company, something that can be done equally well, and in all probability much better, by private individuals, or by small voluntary and temporary associations of such individuals. It was on this rock that the Australian Agricultural Company of New South Wales, and the Van Dieman's Land Agricultural Company were both virtually wrecked and ruined. The object of these companies was to rear sheep, cattle, and horses, and to enrich themselves from their produce. But any individual colonist in New South Wales or Van Dieman's Land could rear sheep, cattle, and horses on his own account, quite as well as either of these companies, and in all likelihood at a tenth part of the expense; having neither an expensive establishment in London nor an expensive establishment in the colony to keep up out of his profits, but doing everything in the simplest style and in the most economical way. Instead, therefore, of being great public benefits, such companies are uniformly great public nuisances, occupying the ground that would be much better occupied by private individuals, and making great professions at their outset, which uniformly end in nothing. In short, such Companies deserve to fail, and they fail accordingly.

I fear, also, that the gold mining companies of the present era have committed precisely the same error, and will issue, for the most part, in the same failure and disappointment. They are attempting to do by means of companies what can be done equally well, and perhaps better, by private individuals, or by temporary partnerships of three or four individuals. Coal mining, copper mining, lead mining, &c., may require large and influential companies to carry them on successfully; for these minerals generally require for their production an outlay of capital and a combination of labour that are greatly beyond the means either of private individuals or of small partnerships of individuals. But this is not the case with gold mining. Gold is rarely, if ever, found in matrix, and requires no large outlay, no combination of labour, beyond the means of two or three individuals of the humblest class in society to procure it. In such circumstances a great company with its costly and cumbersome machinery, must work at a great disadvantage, as compared with a small partnership of perhaps four or five miners, three of whom are employed in digging and carrying the

the fourth in rocking the cradle, while each is a principal in the concern, with a sharp eye over his partners. I may doubtless be mistaken in my opinion on this subject, and I hope it may prove so, for the sake of those concerned; but this was the opinion which I was led to form from what I saw with my own eyes at the Australian mines.

But a company or association for the promotion of emigration, for the purposes I have indicated, would not be open to any such objection, and would therefore be based on a sound principle. It would not attempt to grow cotton itself on a large scale by means of hired labourers, for every individual emigrant could do so on his own account as well as the company; but it would do what private individuals, either singly or associated in small partnerships, could not do, by promoting the emigration of a large body of industrious individuals, and settling them in the cotton-growing region, there to do the best they can for themselves.

There are several points that require to be noticed in connexion with this matter, to which I shall advert successively.

First, then, as to the security for whatever advances may be made by the company or association. Supposing, then, that £100,000 should be advanced progressively for the purchase of land at the Clarence River, of which I shall send you herewith a description, by the Rev. John Gibson—that money would be deposited in the Bank of England to the credit of the Government Land and Emigration Commissioners, who would give the company an order for the selection of land to the value of £100,000 on the Clarence River, together with a right to nominate for a free passage out in the Government Emigration Ships, 5,000 emigrants to be selected for the purpose, or at the rate of £20 per head. These emigrants, whom I would propose to settle on the land so selected as tenants, with a right to purchase at a certain fixed rate, within a certain period, would at once greatly enhance the value of the land by merely settling upon it, so that the security, both for principal and interest, would be of the best possible kind. For land that can now be purchased in any quantity at a pound an acre on the rivers I have mentioned only requires the presence of an industrious and virtuous population to enhance its value to such a degree that in a few years it will bring a pound an acre of yearly rent.

Much, however, especially in the first instance, would depend upon the character and abilities of the emigrants. It would not be absolutely necessary that they should all be small farmers, but it would be all the better if they were; for growing cotton is in no respect different from the process of growing beans, turnips, or potatoes. Ploughing and harrowing the land, sowing the seed and keeping the plants clear of

grass and weeds, is all that is required. Now, in addition to any other test of fitness for such an enterprise, I would insist upon a pecuniary test. I would require the emigrant to pay the half of his own passage money. If he could not do this there would be no hope of his being able to settle upon land with any benefit to himself; but if he could, the probability is that he would be able to maintain himself and family comfortably till after his first harvest. To attempt to transform a mere pauper into a colonial farmer on his own account is simply absurd.

With such an arrangement there would, simultaneously with the £100,000 advanced for the purchase of land and the promotion of emigration by the company, be a second £100,000, advanced by the emigrants themselves, which would provide for the emigration of other 5000 emigrants, or 10,000 altogether. In other words, the company would only pay half the passage money of the emigrants, and would have double the security. That such an arrangement could be effected, for the settlement of the cotton-growing region in Australia, to any extent imaginable, I ascertained when last in England, and have, therefore, no doubt whatever on the subject. And that emigrants of the best possible character, as well as of the class in society I have indicated, could be got to emigrate on such terms to so low a latitude as the cotton-growing region of Australia, is no longer a matter of doubt, from the fact of my having actually sent out three ship-loads of such emigrants to Moreton Bay, when last in England.

The necessity of insisting upon the emigrants paying the half of their passage money, and receiving an equivalent for such payment in land, will be obvious from another circumstance in the present condition of the colony; for if the emigrant had no hold upon the land, he might be tempted to take himself off to the diggings. For the same reason, it will be desirable to encourage the emigration of large families to the cotton regions, rather than families without children; for in such circumstances the husband and father would not think of leaving his family. Besides, children are as useful in picking cotton as adults, and large families would rather be a great help to small farmers than a great incumbrance.

To enable industrious and virtuous persons of a humbler class in society to avail themselves of the facilities that would thus be afforded for emigration to a peculiarly eligible field, I would promote, by all means, the formation of Emigration Societies in particular neighbourhoods—enabling so many of their number to emigrate whenever they could raise the half of the passage-money through the society, and holding the land which that amount would purchase as a security for the

members who should be left behind. An arrangement of this kind would prove an unspeakable benefit to many industrious families and individuals throughout the country.

When the foundations of society were thus laid of proper materials in any particular locality, it would be quite practicable to work up a considerable quantity of inferior materials into the general mass, without hazard of any kind. For example, from 1,000 to 2,000 juvenile pauper and Ragged School children, of equal numbers of each sex, might easily be disposed of annually among the cotton planters on the different rivers to which I have alluded, to assist them in picking cotton, as well as otherwise, if the process of emigration I have recommended were only once fairly begun. And I would not hesitate, on behalf of such a company as that of which I have suggested the formation, to make some such proposal as the following to the parochial authorities of St. Martin's, who, I perceive from this day's paper, have agreed to raise £1,000 to send out a number of poor people of good character to Australia: "Gentlemen, as we can pay ourselves from the land in Australia, which is the patrimony of the poor of this country by act of parliament, we are quite willing, provided you can certify to the character of these poor people, to pay half the amount of their passage-money from the funds of this company, which will enable you to send out double the number with the same money." Only think how extensively and how beneficially such an arrangement would operate throughout this country! I wonder Mr. Sidney Herbert has never thought of it for his protégées; but the fact is people know nothing about the colonies here, although they fancy they know everything.

In short, the amount of good that might be done through such an arrangement as I have suggested—viz., the formation of a Company or Association for the promotion of emigration to the cotton-growing region of Australia, is incalculable. And surely there are philanthropic and Christian men enough in this great city who, if they were assured against eventual loss of any kind, and received a fair interest for their money, would be content with that interest, and allow any surplus profit, after paying all expences, to be appropriated for the providing of educational, moral, and religious institutions for the emigrants in their adopted country.*

When the ancient Greeks, who were beyond all comparison the greatest and the most successful colonizers the

* On the general principles sketched out above, with a slight modification, the writer expects to form a great Association for the object proposed, through the industrious classes themselves, *without any aristocratic assistance*. The thing is quite practicable.

world has never seen, had any scheme of colonization on foot, they always provided a leader, who had the general management of the enterprise, within certain limits, and who had the whole and undivided responsibility. When the great Corinthian general, Timoleon, for instance, had, on the invitation and entreaty of the people of Syracuse, in Sicily, delivered that Grecian city and State from its tyrant Dionysius, and re-established popular government in the other Greek cities of the island, the Senate of Syracuse empowered him to offer very favourable terms to all and sundry who would emigrate to that State from Greece. Timoleon accordingly published the terms they offered on his return to Greece, and such was the effect they had that not fewer than 55,000 Greeks immediately emigrated to Sicily. In like manner, when the Athenians resolved to plant a colony in what the ancients called the Cimbrian Chersonesus, but what we call the Crimea or Crim Tartary, they intrusted the general management of it to their great general Miltiades, whose biographer, Cornelius Nepos, informs us that "he located and settled on their lands the great body of emigrants whom he had carried out with him." *Multitudinem quam secum duxerat, in agris collocavit.*

In short, it is not less necessary for the success of any great scheme of colonization, having a definite object in view beyond that of merely getting so many people sent out of this country, to have some fit and proper person intrusted with the general management and the sole responsibility, than it is to have a similar arrangement for the command of an army in the field, or of a ship at sea; and considering the numberless circumstances to be taken into consideration in the case of a multitude of people settling in a country so totally different as Australia is from this country in its physical character, and in the general condition of its population, I have no hesitation in adding that, however highly qualified any person might be for such a charge in every other respect, it would neither be safe nor proper to intrust him with it, unless he had also had a long and thorough colonial experience in Australia.

For example, there are thirteen rivers available for steam navigation in the cotton region of Australia, of which two are already settled and the land appropriated; the remaining eleven being for the most part open for settlement, but most of the rivers are bar-mouthed, and will not admit of the entrance of a sea-going ship. Where then is to be the place of rendezvous, or is there to be more than one? ¹ the people to be accommodated when they land? the rivers are they to occupy first? How are they to g

destination? What are they to do when they get there? How are they to go about everything? Insignificant as these questions may appear, it is morally certain that an utter stranger in the country could not answer them, but would involve himself and others in serious and unnecessary expenses in attempting to do so, and perhaps commit some fatal mistake that would dishearten the people and ruin the enterprise.

Whether an association for such a purpose as I have described should be a chartered company or not—whether it should have this or that amount of capital—these and various others I might add, are subordinate questions, which I shall not undertake to answer. But some such association seems absolutely necessary to be a medium of communication with the Government on the one hand, and to form a centre of influence and action for a great deal of subordinate machinery on the other. That the funds which it would be necessary to invest in it would be perfectly safe, and would afford a fair interest from the first, is, I am confident, a matter of certainty, as there is a substantial *quid pro quo* receivable in land for the whole of the outlay. And I am equally certain that it would not only do a world of good both to Great Britain and to Australia, but would achieve a glorious triumph for the cause of humanity.

London, Aug. 24, 1852.

My attention has been directed by a friend to some brief remarks in your contemporary, the *Herald*, of last week, on the alleged insufficiency of the evidence on which the Chamber of Commerce, at Manchester, have come to the conclusions they have put forth as to the quality and value of Australian cotton. Now, as I am quite sure your worthy contemporary will be the very last person in this city to refuse "protection" to the infant cotton interest of Australia, it can only have been from a want of information, arising perhaps from the fact of his having no reporter at Manchester, (the place of all others in this country in which the pulse of the nation, on any subject whatever, can be felt with equal certainty and facility,) rather than from any evil intention, that he has put forth so disparaging a remark.

To tell the real truth, the Chamber of Commerce at Manchester—or, rather, their worthy president—has been remarkably cautious in coming to any conclusion on this subject. I have already stated that it was in November, 1845, that the capabilities of Australia as a cotton-growing country were first suggested to myself by what I saw with my own eyes

and handled with my own hands at Moreton Bay, in that country. During the following year I brought home a small quantity of cotton, which I had partly plucked from the trees on which it grew in the garden of the late Dr. Ballou, colonial surgeon at Brisbane, and partly procured from other localities in the district. This small sample I submitted through a friend to Messrs. Wright, of Glasgow, eminent cotton brokers in that city, and to the President of the Chamber of Commerce at Manchester in April, 1847, who both agreed that it was beautiful cotton, worth at that time about a shilling a pound. But I was distinctly told by the Manchester Chamber of Commerce (who held a meeting expressly on the subject, in 1847, when they had invited Mr. David M'Connell, a native of that city, who had resided for years at Moreton Bay, but was then in England, to attend, and who confirmed all my statements on the subject), that they had frequently had small specimens of superior cotton sent home from various countries, which had been grown in gardens, and been tended with extraordinary care, but that such specimens could not be taken as a criterion of the general capabilities of such countries as cotton fields. To satisfy the public in such circumstances the cotton must be grown in quantity, as an article of agricultural produce, receiving no extra care or attention from the cultivator.

Now it so happens that the finest of all the nine samples I submitted to the Chamber a few weeks ago was part of the produce of a whole acre of cotton, grown in the open field, without any extra care or attention, and sold to a merchant in Sydney in the seed, at 2½d. per lb. That cotton was declared in Manchester to be worth, if cleaned, 2s. per lb. The place where it was grown was on the banks of the Bremer river, a tributary of the Brisbane, at Moreton Bay, about sixty-five miles from the sea. And as I was on the spot myself, I can testify that there are thousands of acres, and thousands more in the same district, quite as capable of producing cotton of the same superior description as the land on which that sample was grown.

Besides, when the three specimens I submitted from the Clarence River, grown by my esteemed friend and brother, the Rev. John Gibson, of that district, whose previous acquaintance with tropical cultivation in Jamaica rendered him peculiarly qualified to make experiments on the capabilities of the district for the growth of any such produce, were all found to be so nearly equal in quality to the specimens I have just referred to, as to be worth respectively 1s. 9d., 1s. 10d., and 1s. 11d. per lb.; there could be no doubt as to the general capabilities of the country in this important

respect, for the two localities are 200 miles distant from each other.

Nay, a sample from the Manning River, about 200 miles from Mr. Gibson's station in the opposite direction, had been sent home to Manchester about twelve months ago, and had been pronounced by the Chamber worth 1s. 8d. per lb. Although I happened to have no specimen from that river, I had visited it in November, 1850; and as the North of Ireland farmer at whose house I stayed in the district, and who had a farm of 100 acres of land of his own, told me that his wheat was blighted and was rather a precarious crop, I gave a lecture at his house during my stay to the settlers in the neighbourhood generally, pointing out to them the propriety of cultivating cotton rather than wheat, as it was a much less precarious crop in that climate (latitude 32 deg.), and would pay them much better. The sample sent home from that river had been grown by James Atkinson, Esq., an extensive proprietor from the North of Ireland, on the opposite side of the river, who had not less than four acres under cotton.

There cannot, therefore, be the shadow of a doubt that for at least 500 miles along the east coast of Australia, viz., from Sydney, in latitude 34 deg., to the Tropic of Capricorn, cotton of the first quality for the manufactures of this country can be produced, to any conceivable extent by means of British free labour. But although rather hot occasionally in summer, there is not a more salubrious climate for Europeans generally under the sun. I maintain, therefore, that the evidence that has been submitted to the Chamber of Commerce at Manchester as to the capabilities of Australia as the future cotton field of this country, has been quite sufficient to satisfy any reasonable person; and I have no hesitation in adding that, in my humble opinion, the circumstance of there being a field for the indefinite production of cotton in that country is of incomparably greater importance to the future welfare and greatness of Australia than all its gold. Mr. Buckingham informs us, in his interesting work on the "Slave States of North America," that the cotton crop of that country, for the year 1839 or 1840, was estimated to be worth upwards of a hundred millions of dollars, or more than twenty millions sterling—a greater amount, he adds most judiciously, than had ever been dug in any one year out of all the gold mines in the world.

Besides, there is no branch of cultivation so simple, or that requires so small an amount of labour, as that of cotton. The Americans allow one hand or slave for eight acres, and require him besides to grow vegetables for the planter's

family, and there is no plant that stands drought better when it has once fairly taken root in the soil. I was told repeatedly on the Upper Hunter in New South Wales, during the year 1860, when that district was suffering from a drought which the country towards the coast had entirely escaped, that when almost all the other vegetation had drooped, withered, and died, the cotton plants looked green and healthy.

But the point of prodigious importance both to Great Britain and to Australia in connexion with the growth of cotton in the latter country is, the great extent of water carriage afforded by the numerous tide rivers and their tributaries along the coast. For example, beginning with the Manning in lat. 32 deg. (the land on the Hawkesbury and Hunter, farther south, being all private property,) that river is navigable only about 20 miles, but land of the first quality on its banks for the growth of cotton extends to the very ocean, as well as far above the navigation. The Hastings, in $31\frac{1}{2}$ deg., and the Macleay, in 31 deg., are each navigable for 50 miles; the Clarence, in $29\frac{1}{2}$ deg., is navigable for the same distance; the Richmond, for 80 miles—both of these rivers having also large navigable tributaries; the Brisbane, in $27\frac{1}{2}$ deg., is navigable 65 miles; and the Wide Bay River, in 26 deg., at least 50. Now, this extent of water carriage will not only be of vast importance to the future inhabitants of these regions, from the facilities it will afford them in getting their produce forwarded to the port of shipment; it will be of still greater importance in regard to the division of labour which is indispensably necessary for success in this department of industry as well as in any other. Under the slave system in the United States and on the sugar plantations of the West Indies in the olden time, all the cotton was ginned or cleaned, and all the sugar cane was manufactured into sugar, on the estates on which the produce was grown—an arrangement as absurd as it would be for every grain grower in this country to conjoin with his proper occupation that of a miller, and baker, and brewer. The necessary consequence of such an arrangement was a great waste both of labour and of material, besides a great and unnecessary absorption of capital in machinery. But on each of the Australian rivers I have enumerated a single ginning establishment, with steam power, perhaps, under the superintendence of men accustomed to that peculiar operation, will be quite sufficient for all the plantations on the river; and small steamboats that are already plying on one of these rivers—the Brisbane—will convey the produce to and from the central establishment at the smallest cost. I ascertained when at Pernambuco, in 1846, that the cotton grown in that part of the Brazils was all grown in

rior, at a distance of from 50 to 150 leagues from the coast. It is brought down to Pernambuco on horseback, each driver having a long line of horses under his charge, and each horse having a bale of cotton of a certain average weight on each side. The extent of water carriage available for the future cotton planters on the coast of Australia will soon render anything like competition from the Brazils in such circumstances as these out of the question. Nay, with such extraordinary capabilities as the soil and climate and navigable rivers of the east coast of Australia present for the growth of this indispensable article of raw produce for the manufactures of this country by means of British free labour, I consider it a piece of the greatest folly imaginable to depend for a supply of that article upon Hindoo labour, and to cry up for the purpose railroads for India. It is quite evident, at all events, that no such cotton as the samples I brought home from Australia can be grown in India. It is only the coarsest kind that grows in any quantity there.

I shall probably trouble you with another letter on the bearings of cotton cultivation in Australia on the gold question, and the present emigration to that country.

London, Aug. 25, 1852.

It is a beautiful arrangement of Divine Providence that gold mining has, in every country in which the precious metal has hitherto been discovered, been a mere lottery, in which, although there are many and splendid prizes, there is, nevertheless, a preponderance of blanks. In South America and Mexico, long the richest mining countries in the world, the kings of Spain claimed a royalty of twenty per cent. from the produce of the mines in the first instance; but this imposition proved so unproductive on the one hand, and so oppressive on the other, that it was soon reduced to ten per cent., and afterwards to five; and even at this lowest rate, gold mining very frequently proved a ruinous speculation. The Spaniards, indeed, have embodied their mining experience of three centuries in America in a proverb, which is sufficiently expressive—"A proprietor who discovers a copper mine on his *hacienda*, or estate, will make a fortune; if he discovers a silver mine, he will be a poor man all his days; but if he discovers a gold mine, he will be ruined."

Now, from all I have seen and heard of the Australian mines, it does not appear to me that they will form any exception to the general result of past experience in other countries. There are numerous and splendid prizes—sufficient to accomplish the great object which Divine Providence has evidently had in view in the whole matter, viz., to direct the

flood-tide of European emigration to the shores of Australia—but not sufficient to unhinge the whole framework of society in that country, and to send the whole population to the mines; for there are many blanks.

I am told, indeed, that the Port Phillip mines are an exception to the general rule in this respect; for I confess that my own personal observation extends only to the New South Wales mines, at which the case is exactly as I have represented it; but I do not believe it, and the statistics of the Port Phillip gold mines prove that I am in the right. On the 1st of April last, Mr. Westgarth, one of the members of the Local Legislature for the city of Melbourne, and President of the Chamber of Commerce of that city, estimated the number of diggers then at the Port Phillip mines, at fifty thousand, and the press informs us that the arrivals of gold at the time in Melbourne amounted to £100,000 per week. Now this is only £2 a week for each of the diggers; but as it is a matter of notoriety that many of them have got much more than that amount, it follows that many more must have been getting much less. In short, it is perfectly clear, that while many will realize large amounts at the diggings, many others will experience disappointment and failure; while others still, although clearing their expenses, and earning, perhaps, better wages than they could have done at other employments, will get disgusted at the semi-savage life which gold mining implies, and will endeavour to betake themselves to other and less exciting occupations. For it cannot be denied, that gold mining is hard work, hard fare, and hard lodging all combined. What, then, are the unsuccessful and disappointed miners to do? What are those who, although moderately successful, will soon get tired of the diggings, and will look about them for some other, though less gainful occupation—what are these people to betake themselves to in Australia? These questions are very important questions at the present crisis, and must be answered in some way or other, for thousands of emigrants who will go to the mines in the first instance, without ever thinking, perhaps, where they are to go, or what they are to do, if they should prove unsuccessful in their mining speculation.

Hitherto the rush of emigration has been principally to Port Phillip—because the mines of that province are supposed to be richer than those of New South Wales, where the first diggings were discovered. Perhaps they are; but taking into account the numbers of people at the mines of both colonies, there has been very little difference in the amount realized per head in both. The Port Phillip mines have been more accessible, and the population more excitable, than in New South Wales, for a much larger proportion of

the inhabitants of that colony have gone to the diggings. But, whatever may be the case in this respect, it is evident beyond all doubt that the questions I have suggested must be put and answered for a much larger number of persons comparatively in Port Phillip than in New South Wales.

What, then, are the unsuccessful and disappointed miners, of whom the number will necessarily, and very soon, be considerable in Port Phillip—what are these persons to do? Why, I shall be told—

1. They will get into mercantile situations, as clerks, shopmen, storekeepers, &c. But there will not be situations of this kind in Port Phillip for one, perhaps, out of every twenty who may be willing to take them. The demand for such services is necessarily very limited, and the supply will henceforth be very great.

2. They will betake themselves to the pastoral pursuits of the colony, keeping sheep and cattle like other people. They must do so, however, either as masters or as men. In the one case they will find that every acre of land in Port Phillip is part of somebody's sheep station or cattle run, and that in order to get into that sort of occupation at all, they must purchase the entire stock and station of some actual squatter (as such people are called in the colony) who may be willing to sell out; and this may not be one for less than thousands of pounds, which will probably be altogether beyond the means of the great majority of emigrants. In the other case, it is very heartless to think of a young man of respectable standing and education hiring himself as a shepherd at £25 or even £30 a year, with ten pounds of beef, ten pounds of flour, a pound of sugar, and a quarter of a pound of tea every week; to live in a bark hut, far from the society of mortals, to go out every morning, in the year with the same flock of sheep, to follow them through the woods, or over hill and dale all day, and to bring them back to the fold at night—this is shepherding, as it is called, in the Australian colonies; and although it may be a very Arcadian sort of life, to be praised by poets who know no better, it is anything but inviting for the great majority of those who will prove unsuccessful and disappointed miners.

3. They will purchase a tract of waste land, and begin farming. But before they can do this, they must notify their selection to the Government, and have the land put up to auction; and they will probably discover in the process that the spot they fixed on is part of the squatting station or cattle run of Mr. John Smith or Mr. William Brown, who has not only got a lease of it from the crown, but a right of pre-emption over it at the minimum price, under which he

can effectually prevent the *bona fide* emigrant from obtaining it at any price. This monstrous injustice, the emigrant will find, is perpetrated under an act of the imperial parliament passed in the year 1846, at the instance of Earl Grey, before he was three months in office, and when he knew just as little of the real circumstances and wants of the colonies as the merchant's clerk in Mincing-lane who has thrown up his situation a few days ago and paid his passage to be off for the diggings. At all events, the emigrant will then discover to his cost what is implied in that withering and blasting curse of the British empire—government of the colonies by Downing Street. It might, perhaps, be considered unmannerly to say of any act of the imperial parliament—the emanation of the collective wisdom of this great nation—that it is worthy of Bedlam; and therefore I shall say nothing of the kind of the act of 1846, commonly called the Squatters' Act. But I confess it would be difficult to imagine a more appropriate origin for that notorious instance of ignorant and presumptuous legislation—legislation in the dark, and in entire ignorance of the circumstances and interests for which it was provided, or which it was calculated to affect—which inflicts on the one hand monstrous injustice on myriads of her Majesty's unoffending subjects, while it authorizes on the other a virtual confiscation of the valuable property of the State to an enormous amount. The evils of that act have as yet been but little felt in New South Wales, from the earlier settlement of the country, and the much greater distance of the squatting stations; and they have hitherto been but little felt in Port Phillip, from the comparatively small number of persons proposing to purchase and settle upon land. But now that the rights of pre-emption which it has created in favour of a mere handful of squatters, (who were entitled to no extra privilege or indulgence whatever at the hands of the public,) over millions of acres of the finest land for agricultural purposes in the British empire—now that these rights will be exercised against the myriads of emigrants who are now flocking to the mines, and who, whether successful or not, will almost all eventually desire to settle down on such lands—the heartless injustice, as well as the suicidal policy of that act, will now be seen and felt in Port Phillip to an incalculable extent. But I shall leave it to the hon. member for Kidderminster (Robert Lowe, Esq.), to characterize that precious sample of Downing Street and Imperial legislation for the colonies in his place in the House of Commons in the way it deserves; as I am sure he will do on the first favourable opportunity and with the same masterly argument and brilliant quence that used to electrify and delight the liberal:

of the late Legislative Council of New South Wales a few years ago.

4. But supposing that those worthy squatters, Messrs. John Smith and William Brown, should be graciously pleased to waive their rights of pre-emption over some minute fragment of their sheep and cattle runs, so as to allow the emigrant to purchase the requisite extent of land for his settlement as a farmer at a reasonable price, what is the latter to grow for his future income, as well as for his future subsistence? As to the latter there can be no difficulty. Port Phillip is unquestionably a land of plenty for the agriculturist; but there is something more necessary than mere subsistence—mere bread and beef, sugar and tea—in the present state of society. He must also have something to sell, to provide himself and his family with all the comforts and appliances of civilized life: and the question, therefore, of the utmost importance to the emigrant in such circumstances as the present is, what will he have to sell in Port Phillip, and where will he find a market? And this question, it must be remembered, is a very different one under existing circumstances from what it would have been had there been no discovery of gold in that country, and no extraordinary amount of emigration to its territory. There must be something new—some article of agricultural produce—that will command a market, independently of the mere colonial demand; otherwise, from the greatly increased number of cultivators that may be expected under the present flood of emigration, agricultural produce of all kinds will speedily fall far below a remunerating price.

The climate of Port Phillip is very much the same as that of the south of England, and, with the exception of two articles of agricultural produce, which I shall mention presently, the country produces nothing that cannot be grown equally well in England. Now, to think of competing at such a distance, in the grain market of this country, with the English farmer, with the continent of Europe, or with the United States and Canada, is, in my humble opinion, a very indifferent prospect for the Australian agriculturist. He must grow something else, that cannot be grown here, to maintain his proper position in society, and in the markets of the world.

The two articles of agricultural produce that are not grown in this country, and for which the soil and climate of Port Phillip are well adapted, are wine and tobacco; but it is still problematical whether either of these articles will ever be fit for the European market. They are both now grown extensively in New South Wales, where the climate is decidedly more favourable for their production; but whether the produce even of that colony, in either of these articles, will suit

the home market, is still undecided. My brother, who has been the most successful cultivator of the vine in New South Wales, as to the amount of produce per acre, calculates that every acre of vineyard costs £100 of outlay, and no return to speak of can be expected for five years; the vine requiring three years to come into full bearing, and the wine not being marketable for two years thereafter. This, however, is an amount of expenditure and a period of delay that will scarcely suit the majority of emigrants.

The cultivation of the tobacco plant has been so recently attempted, and to so very small an extent as yet in Port Phillip, that nothing can be said upon the subject. The average produce per acre in the new state of Texas, in America, of which the range of latitude is precisely the same, although in the opposite hemisphere, as that of New South Wales, is 700 lbs. per acre; but "a ton to the acre is not uncommon" in New South Wales. We cannot tell, however, how it will suit the home market, although I am inclined to believe it will suit perfectly well; but we are still equally ignorant as to the capabilities of Port Phillip in this particular article.

There is one article of agricultural produce, indeed, common to Port Phillip and the mother country, for which I believe there would be an unlimited market in this country, and that is flax. It grows wild in Port Phillip, as an indigenous plant, as well as in New South Wales; and I have no doubt the export of that article from Port Phillip will one day be as great as that of wool. But it has not yet been tried in either colony.

From this fair and candid statement of facts, it will appear that the prospects from agriculture in Port Phillip for the unsuccessful or disappointed miner, are anything but brilliant. He may raise plenty of subsistence for himself and his family, on a comparatively small extent of land, and he may live in the midst of rough and rude abundance; but he will have nothing to sell in the home market, and there will be so many to compete with him in the colonial market, that agricultural produce of all kinds will very soon be too low in price to pay.

In such circumstances, I think I am rendering a real and important service to myriads of my fellow-countrymen, in demonstrating, as I conceive I have already done to the satisfaction of all candid persons, that, if not in Port Phillip, there is at all events in New South Wales, an article of agricultural produce that will always pay, and pay well, in the home market,—an article for which the demand is unlimited and the returns immediate, and which, moreover, requ

for its cultivation less capital and less labour than any other article of agricultural produce that I know of. This article is cotton. The cultivation of that article of agricultural produce along the east coast of Australia, from Sydney northwards, can never be overdone, and all the unsuccessful miners in the world may settle themselves there, with the fairest prospects of comfort and comparative independence for half a century to come. They will there find a splendid climate, and a virgin soil that will amply repay the toils of the husbandman; and, with light labour and rural plenty, they will be comparatively free from care. At a highly respectable public meeting, held at Brisbane, Moreton Bay, in the month of November last, at which certain resolutions, affirmative of the capabilities of the soil and climate of that district for the growth of cotton, were unanimously passed, Mr. Grimes, one of my emigrants, who had previously been a draper in some inland town in Lancashire, and had never seen farming before he went to Australia, where he is now a spirited and successful farmer, except from the top of a coach or the window of a railway train, spoke on the subject as follows:

"Mr. Grimes supported the motion, and gave his evidence also of the healthiness of field labour in this district. He spoke also of his personal experience of the growth of cotton here. The only objection he had ever heard was that the fibre was too fine; but he apprehended that this could easily be remedied. No man with a family who was willing to earn his livelihood need fear to come here. For his own part, when he set his foot on board the *Chasely* for this port, his anxiety for his family in great part forsook him, and had not returned since; for he felt assured that if it should please the Divine wisdom to call him away to-morrow, his children would here be enabled to get their livelihood by the sweat of their brows. Provision for them, therefore, awakened no fears in his mind. (Cheers.)"—*Moreton Bay Courier*, Nov. 29, 1851.

Let the unsuccessful and disappointed miner, therefore, know beforehand that he has something to fall back upon in Australia, even although he should not be able to fill both pockets with gold at the mines. There is another, and far less uncertain way of arriving at the same desirable result. There is a noble field for him on the east coast of Australia, in one of the finest climates in the world, not only as a cotton planter, but as a tobacco planter, and a sugar and coffee planter; for all these articles of agricultural produce grow equally well along our coast. And surely it would be much more agreeable to write home to his friends that he had settled as a cotton planter on his own account, in a very

humble way to begin with, on one or other of the rivers I have enumerated, than that he had gone a shepherding at "twenty-five pounds a year and rations."

London, Sept. 15, 1852.

Having been requested, since the publication of my former letters on this subject, by various respectable persons, possessed, respectively, of considerable amounts of capital, to afford them a little further information on the subject, by which they might be enabled to become cotton planters in Australia with a fair prospect of success, I beg you will allow me to do so through your paper.

I have shown, therefore, in my former letters, that, keeping the gold fields out of the question, and saying nothing about squatting, which is scarcely a desirable course for a respectable family, but looking merely to their settling on land, such a family, if possessed of moderate capital, and settling in any eligible part of Port Phillip, may easily gather around them all the rough abundance of rural life in that colony, but they will be able to raise nothing from the land for the home market, the agricultural produce of Port Phillip being quite the same as that of England, and competition in the home market being out of the question. Now I think it is at least prudent in such circumstances, if not absolutely necessary, for a respectable emigrant, having a family to provide for, and to push forward in the world, to look for something more in his adopted country than the mere necessities of life. He must grow something, in short, for the home market—something that will always sell, and sell well. Now, in New South Wales, as I have shown, there is an article of agricultural produce admirably suited to the soil and climate, which can be raised to any conceivable extent, and for which there is an unlimited demand, at highly remunerating prices, in the home market—and that article is cotton. And there is this further recommendation in favour of cotton cultivation in Australia for respectable emigrants possessed of moderate capital, that it requires the smallest amount of labour of any article of agricultural produce that I know of, and affords the speediest and the most certain return. I am, therefore, decidedly of opinion that, for emigrants of respectable standing in society, possessed, respectively, of various amounts of capital—of from £500 to £5,000, there is no prospect at this moment in Australia so favourable as that of becoming cotton planters in that country.

Along the line of coast on which cotton of the first quality for the home market may be grown to any conceivable extent by means of British labour in Australia, Moreton Bay

latitude $27\frac{1}{2}$ deg., and the Clarence River in latitude $29\frac{1}{2}$ deg., are the principal points to be occupied in the first instance; the present amount of population in these districts generally being upwards of ten thousand, but rapidly increasing. But such countries, I shall be told, must be too hot for Europeans; they must also be unhealthy, and they may be otherwise unsuitable. On these points I shall add the following testimonies to the admirable report of my esteemed friend and brother, the Rev. John Gibson, on the general capabilities of the Clarence and Richmond River districts, already published in your columns. (See p. 53.)

By the late D. Keith Ballow, Esq., colonial surgeon, Brisbane, Moreton Bay.—“The district of Moreton Bay is, altogether, an extremely healthy one, very few deaths occurring from disease of any kind. I think the best character I can give the district is to say of it, that it is by no means a profitable field for practitioners of medicine.”

By William Dorsey, Esq., J.P., surgeon, Ipswich, Moreton Bay.—“The temperature is high, as indicated by the thermometer; still it has not the depressing effect of the same degree of heat in other parts of the world. The men work all day in the sun, and the average of health is the same as in other parts of the colony. I do not apprehend that the duration of life will be longer here than ‘the three score years and ten;’ but as far as climate is concerned, we have nothing to dread. In short, it is almost too healthy for the doctors.”

By the Rev. W. Schmidt, German missionary to the aborigines.—“Without fear of contradiction, I give you my opinion that there can scarcely be any other climate in the world superior to that of Moreton Bay. The summer is hot, it is true, but the heat is greatly modified by fine sea breezes. The excellency of the climate may be shown by the circumstance that it is neither subject to sudden changes nor to hot winds.”

These extracts are taken from a work of mine, published by Messrs. Longman and Co., 1847, entitled “Cookland, the Future Cotton Field of Great Britain.” The inhabitants propose that the territory of the Clarence River and Moreton Bay should be formed into a separate colony from New South Wales, and named in honour of its great discoverer, Captain Cook, to whose memory this country has as yet been very ungrateful.

There are three requisites in order to the formation of a series of flourishing cotton plantations in these splendid districts. 1st. The emigrant must have a sufficient extent of land for settlement and cultivation. 2nd. There must be a contemporaneous emigration of an agricultural population

of the humbler classes, to hire for a time as farm-servants or labourers. 3rd. The whole affair must be conducted on such a scale as to allow of the formation of cotton cleaning establishments at Moreton Bay and the Clarence River respectively.

For an emigrant possessing capital of from £500 to £1,000 a farm of 320 acres or half a square mile, as proposed by Captain Perry, Deputy Surveyor-General of New South Wales, would be a suitable extent of land to purchase. For an emigrant with a capital of from £1,000 to £5,000 and upwards, who would be able to embark more extensively in cotton planting as well as the other branches of cultivation suited to the soil and climate, 640 acres (or a square mile), 1,280 acres (or two square miles), or even 2,560 acres (or four square miles), might respectively be a suitable extent of land, according to the means of the intending emigrant. It is better, however, for an emigrant not to sink too much of his capital in land, at first. For persons of humbler standing 160 acres (or one-fourth of a square mile), or even 80 acres (one-eighth) would form very good farms to begin with. Butcher's meat of all kinds could be obtained at so very low a price from the squatters, whose exclusive business is grazing, that it would scarcely be worth while to combine the two objects on purchased land.

Land, however, would be of no use to emigrants of the class and standing I have been supposing, without a pretty large supply of labour. How then is this to be supplied? I answer, by a very simple process.

Land in New South Wales is sold at not less than a pound an acre, and the proceeds of such sales are expended in sending out suitable persons and families of the humbler and industrious classes, to supply the requisite amount of labour. This is what is called the "Wakefield" principle, and I have no hesitation in saying that it is an admirable one, when properly carried out. And I would say further, that for all such lands as are suited for agriculture, and especially for cotton planting in New South Wales, it would be absurd either to lower this minimum price, or to disturb this beautiful arrangement, so beneficial to all parties concerned, when judiciously carried out. The emigrant with capital, therefore, invests so much—say from £100 to £1,000 in land by depositing that amount in the hands of the Government Commissioners before his departure, and labourers are sent out to him with the money.

Besides, by purchasing the land here, the emigrant talist will save two per cent. on his capital, while he have the power (within certain limits) of selecting persons of the industrious classes to be sent out pass on his account by the government emigration ships.

When I had discovered, and ascertained to my own entire satisfaction, in the year 1845, the extraordinary capabilities of Australia as a cotton field for Great Britain, I naturally enough supposed that the cotton aristocracy of this country would be delighted with the intelligence, and would at once lend a helping hand for the development of the great resources of Australia in this most important particular. But I was very soon undeceived. One of the oldest cotton brokers of Liverpool, with whom I became acquainted on the occasion, in 1848—an old Scotchman, since deceased—who had himself been a cotton planter in America in his youth, was delighted with the specimen I showed him of our produce, and predicted with perfect confidence the future greatness of Australia as a cotton-growing country. He was sincerely desirous, he told me, that the thing should succeed, as he considered the dependence of this country on the United States for the supply of that article exceedingly mortifying and humiliating. But this he candidly acknowledged was all he could either say or do in the matter; for if it were known, he added, that he was taking any interest in the growth of cotton in Australia, he would be sure to lose all his American business. Now this feeling I found to be universal in Liverpool and Glasgow, and pretty much the same in Manchester. In short, humiliating as is the dependence of this country on the United States for the supply of this article of raw produce for our manufactures, it is not half so humiliating as the complacency and satisfaction with which it is contemplated by those principally concerned. For, disguise it as they may, the cotton aristocracy of this country are virtually in league with the American slave-holder; they actually tolerate and sympathize with his "peculiar institution"—they are the friends, not of the slave, but of slavery. To use the language of the poet, with a slight change for the occasion—

Slavery's a monster of such frightful mien,
As, to be hated, needs but to be seen;
But seen too oft in cotton's snow-white face,
They first endure, then tolerate, then embrace.

In one word, these gentlemen will give young Australia no countenance or assistance in dealing a blow, as she only can, at the "peculiar institution," under its fifth rib; they will rather let well alone. But if a corps of British emigrant cotton-planters, should be formed on the plan I have indicated, young Australia will be able to render this great service to humanity without their assistance.

I am, sir, yours, &c.,

JOHN DUNMORE LANG, D.D.

The following is a list of the prices in the Sydney markets on the 14th of May, 1852.

SYDNEY MARKETS.

WHEAT AND FLOUR.—Sydney Flour Mills, 14th May: Wheat continues to come into market very freely and lower prices have been submitted to, the best samples ranging from 5s. 9d. to 6s. 3d. per bushel, inferior and middling 5s. to 5s. 6d. per bushel. Flour remains at former quotations, fine £18 per ton, seconds £16 per ton. Bran 1s. 2d. to 1s. 4d. per bushel. T. Barker and Co.'s Mills, May 14th: The supply of wheat continues abundant, and prices have declined, purchases have been made at from 5s. to 6s. 4d. per bushel. In flour no alteration has taken place, and prices remain firm at £18 per ton fine, and £16 per ton seconds. Bran 1s. 2d. to 1s. 4d. per bushel. Victoria Flour Mills, May 14th: A reduction from last week's prices has taken place in wheat. Flour continues in demand, particularly for exportation, fine is nominally at £18, seconds £16 per ton. Bran 1s. 3d. per bushel.

BISCUITS.—T. Barker and Co.'s cabin, 28s., seconds 23s. per cwt. Wilkie's cabin 28s., pilot 25s., ship's 23s. per cwt.

BREAD 5d. the 2lb. loaf.

FORAGE AND GRAIN.—Campbell-street Markets, May 14th: Hay £5 10s. to £7 10s. per ton; straw £2 5s. to £3 15s.; wheat 6s. to 6s. 4d. per bushel; maize 2s. 3d. to 2s. 9d.; green stuff 6d. to 8d. per dozen bundles; bark £6 10s. to £7 per ton.

GENERAL MARKETS.—**POULTRY.**—Fowls 2s. to 2s. 9d. per couple; ducks 2s. 6d. to 3s.; geese 5s. to 5s. 6d.; turkeys 8s. to 12s.; pigeons 1s.; roasting pigs 2s. 6d. to 3s.; butter 10d. to 1s. per lb.; cheese 7d. to 8d.; bacon 9d. to 10d.; lard 4d.; eggs 1s. 3d. per dozen. **VEGETABLES.**—Potatoes 5s. to 6s. per cwt.; cabbages 1s. 6d. to 4s.; lettuces 1s.; turnips 1s. 6d.; celery 2s. 6d.; leeks 6d. per bunch; parsnips 1s. 6d. to 2s. per dozen; carrots 1s. 6d.; pumpkins 4s. 6d. to 5s.; vegetable marrow 2s. to 3s.; peas 4s. per bushel; beans (French) 3s. to 3s. 6d.; onions 2s. 6d. per bushel. **FRUIT.**—Oranges 6d. to 8d. per dozen; lemons 3d. to 4d.; peaches 3s. to 3s. 6d. per basket; quinces 3d. to 8d.; pears 4d. to 1s.; apples 6d. to 1s. 6d.; loquats 4s. to 5s. 6d.

BUTCHER'S MEAT.—Beef 2d. to 2½d.; mutton 2d. to 2½d. per lb.; veal 3d. to 4d.; pork 4d. to 5d.; lamb 2s. to 3s. per quarter.

MEAT MARKET.—Wholesale prices: Beef ½d. to ¾d. per lb.; mutton ¾d. to 1d.; pork 2½d. to 4d.; calves 8s. to 20s.

CATTLE SALES.—Colcroft, 100 head, 600 lb. at 30s., Neale;

Easy, 90 head, 700 lb. at 30s., Blakeney;—90 head, 550 lb. at 21s., York; Lord, 100 head, 750 lb. at 40s., Hill and Argent.

SHEEP.—Walker, 800 head, 48 lb. at 4s. 9d., Piesley.

HORSE STOCK.—Mr. Burt's sales at Stewart's Horse Bazaar, since last report, number 101 head, viz., 56 at prices varying from £3 to £8 each, 33 from £8 to £16 each, two at £18 each, two at £20 each; also a pair of carriage horses at £24 10s., two pairs at £30, and one pair at £65. A large demand still exists for heavy draught, coach and carriage horses; the past week's sales have fully maintained prices for each class of useful horses; small, poor, and unbroken stock remain unsaleable.

SETTLERS' WHOLESALE PRICE CURRENT.

WHEAT.—Is realizing from 5s. to 5s. 9d. per bushel.

FLOUR.—The mills quote, fine £18, seconds £16 per ton.

MAIZE.—Is realizing—new 2s. 6d. to 2s. 9d., old 3s. to 3s. 6d.

ENGLISH BARLEY.—Dull in sale.

CAPE BARLEY.—Sales moderate at from 2s. 3d. to 2s. 6d.

HAY.—Is scarce, and worth about £6 to £7 per ton.

BUTTER.—Is worth from 1s. 4d. to 1s. 6d.

CHEESE.—If good, in demand, at from 6d. to 7d. per lb.

BACON AND HAMS.—None.

EGGS.—Are worth from 1s. 4d. to 1s. 6d. per dozen.

FAT PIGS.—Small sizes, in good condition very saleable.

CALVES.—Nominal.

SHEEP.—Plentiful.

BULLOCKS.—The market continues well supplied, and no deviation in prices.

TALLOW.—In shipping order, is worth from £25 10s. to £26.

HIDES.—In good condition, at from 5s. to 7s. each.

TOBACCO.—Plentiful, and prices declining.

HENRY FERRIS, Commission Agent.

Pitt-street, near the Theatre.

Sydney, May 14, 1852.

The following Statistical Notices may not be uninteresting to the reader, while they will illustrate the general condition of these colonies, and the prospects of business or employment which they hold forth for persons in many different lines of life:—

STATISTICS OF NEW SOUTH WALES AND PORT PHILLIP.

Population of both colonies on the 1st of January, 1851, 265,503. Ditto 1st March, 1851, New South Wales 187,243; Port Phillip 77,000.

On the 1st of January, 1851, there were 659 schools altogether in the colonies of New South Wales and Port Phillip, or Victoria, which were then one colony, and the number of scholars was 28,604.

Number of acres in crop in both colonies 196,824.

Number of acres of vineyard in both colonies 1,232½, producing 115,706 galls. of wine, and 2,244 brandy.

Number of acres of vineyard in New South Wales 1,069½, producing 111,085 galls. of wine, and 1,958 brandy.

Number of acres of vineyard in Port Phillip 162½, producing 4,621 galls. of wine, and 286 brandy.

There were, at the same time, 86 steam-flour-mills, 45 water-mills, 29 wind-mills, and 22 horse-mills; total, 182.

There were, also, at the same time, the following manufactories in the two colonies:—

Distilleries and rectifying establishments	3	Rope	0
Breweries	33	Tanneries	74
Sugar refining	2	Salt	1
Soap and candle	20	Salting & preserving meat ..	15
Tobacco and snuff	14	Potteries	5
Woollen cloth	7	Gas works	1
Hat	5	Smelting works (copper) ..	1
		Iron & brass foundry	20

The woollen manufactories produced 190,791 yards of cloth and tweeds, and 326 blankets; the soap manufactories produced 31,826 cwt.; the tobacco manufactories 3,833 cwt.; and the sugar refineries 51,000 cwt.

The imports for the year 1850 amounted for New South Wales to £1,333,418.

The exports for the year 1850 amounted for New South Wales to £1,357,784.

The imports for the year 1850 amounted for Port Phillip to £744,925.

The exports for the year 1850 amounted for Port Phillip to £1,041,796.

General revenue of New South Wales for the year 1850 £247,570 2s. 1d., of Port Phillip £122,781 0s. 4d.

Territorial revenue of New South Wales for the year 1850 £127,096 15s. 1d., of Port Phillip £136,260 17s. 4d.

General expenditure of New South Wales for the year 1850 £369,841 15s. 10d., of Port Phillip £197,323 4s. 5d.

	Horses.	Horned Cattle.	Pigs.	Sheep.
Live stock in New South Wales ..	111,212..	1,360,150..	52,371..	7,026,541
Ditto in Port Phillip	21,515..	378,806..	9,2	
Total	132,437	738,965	61	

PARTIDGE AND OAKLEY, PRINTERS, PADDINGTON.

APPENDIX TO THE SECOND THOUSAND.

It has been deemed expedient to append to this volume the following letter, which was originally printed for separate circulation through the Newspapers of the North, as illustrative of the course which it is proposed to follow in directing a copious stream of emigration to Australia.

THE COTTON AND GOLD FIELDS OF AUSTRALIA.

To the Industrious Classes of Scotland, the North of England, and the North of Ireland.

London, 4th December, 1852.

FELLOW COUNTRYMEN AND FRIENDS,—

Since I was last in this country, in the year 1849, I have been twice elected one of the Representatives of the City of Sydney, the Metropolitan City of Australia, in the Legislative Council or Provincial Parliament of New South Wales; and on the latter of these occasions, viz.: at the last General Election, in September, 1851, I was placed at the head of the poll by the largest majority ever known in the colony. I mention the circumstance to shew you in what light I have been regarded by my fellow colonists, among whom I have lived for thirty years past; that you may be enabled to judge for yourselves what degree of confidence you ought to repose in me, in the matter on which I propose to address you—the following letter.

In the position in which I was thus placed by my colonists—the highest in which they had the placing any one of their own number—there was, do a fair prospect of public usefulness opened up for my colony; but as it appeared to me that, in the present ordinary crisis in Australia, I should be likely to be service to my adopted country, as well as to many families and individuals in the United Kingdom, by to Britain or—

diffuse correct information

out the three kingdoms as to the state of things in Australia, and to guide some portion, at least, of the present stream of emigration into the right channel, I took the first opportunity that offered of resigning my seat and returning to England. Since my arrival in London, I have accordingly been employed in superintending the publication of two separate works on Australia, which are now issuing simultaneously from the Press, and which you will find advertised at the beginning of the volume to which this letter is appended. The prices of these works, which are now published, are *Historical and Statistical Account of New South Wales, &c.*, 2 vols., £1 1s. : *Freedom and Independence, &c.*, 7s. 6d. I do not expect, indeed, that intending emigrants of the industrious classes should purchase either of the works I allude to on their own private account: but I would advise as many as possible, who may have an opportunity of perusing them through the Mechanics' Institutes', or other Public Libraries throughout the country, to do so for their own sakes; as it will not only be desirable for them to obtain the fullest information on all points of importance respecting the country to which they are going, but as such information will probably save them much uncertainty as to their future course, as well as much unnecessary delay and expense.

But as many intending emigrants of the industrious classes may neither have the means nor the opportunity of perusing the larger works to which I have alluded, I have embodied a good deal of useful information for such emigrants in this small Shilling Volume.

In this volume, I have shewn that, in the colony of Port Phillip, or Victoria, in particular, to which so many of all classes are now emigrating from the mother country, there is—independently altogether of the gold fields—a vast extent of the finest land for agricultural purposes, besides a fair field and a highly favourable opening for reputable and industrious families and individuals, of a great variety of pursuits and occupations. But as the climate of Port Phillip is pretty much like that of England—being only a little warmer in summer and somewhat milder in winter—there is no article of agricultural produce in that colony which can form an export to the mother country, on which the farmer can always depend for a remunerating return for his capital and labour. He will, therefore, of necessity, be confined to the colonial market; which is, at best, but limited, and therefore uncertain and precarious. But in New South Wales, I have shewn that there is an article of agricultural produce, which any British farmer can grow as easily as potatoes, or turnips, or beans—an article, moreover,

which can be grown of the finest quality, to any conceivable extent, with a comparatively small amount of labour, and for which there is a constant and unlimited demand at a highly remunerating price in the home market. The article I allude to is cotton. Experiments on the cultivation of this article of agricultural produce in Australia have been in progress for several years past, and, I am happy to add, with the most gratifying and extraordinary success; insomuch that we can now, with perfect confidence, invite hundreds of thousands of the industrious classes of the mother country to settle in our territory, and can hold out to them the certain prospect of a comfortable subsistence and a speedy independence. Along the East Coast of Australia, for at least five hundred miles, there is a whole series of rivers, navigable, and some of them actually navigated by steam-boats; on the banks of which there are hundreds of thousands of acres of the finest land, and in one of the finest climates in the world, fit for the immediate settlement of a numerous and industrious population; where almost everything that is grown in this country can be grown with perfect facility—with the important addition of cotton, tobacco, the orange, and the vine. Abundant proofs of all these statements will be found in the preceding pages.

Besides, one of the richest Gold Fields in Australia, *The Hanging Rock, or Peel River Diggings*, is situated within 150 miles of the southern part of this coast; and if a line of settlements were formed on the rivers I have mentioned, it would be quite practicable for parties of the abler bodied men, after putting their crops in the ground and leaving one or more of their number in charge, with their wives and families, to try their hands for a few months at these diggings, which they could easily reach in a few days during the slack season of the year. The following is an account of the *Hanging Rock Diggings*, which are thus comparatively in the vicinity of the cotton-growing country, from *The Empire*, a Sydney paper, towards the end of May last.

HANGING ROCK DIGGINGS.

“The Northern Gold Field is fast rising into importance. A letter, which we subjoin, was received yesterday by a mercantile firm in town, and the particulars contained in it are very interesting, evidently indicating as they do the existence of a very rich and extensive gold field in the Northern District. In addition to the information conveyed in this letter, we are given to understand that an auriferous quartz vein of great richness has been discovered on the Australian Agricultural Company's land, at the Oukanville

creek. The miners had been warned off the ground, and it is understood that licenses would be taken out immediately for the working of the vein. The existence of so much matrix gold is a pretty sure sign of the permanency of the gold mining pursuit in this colony. Alluvial deposits, however rich, are soon exhausted."

The following letter is from Dr. R. L. Jenkins, the gentleman named in a recent notice of these diggings, and is dated May 15th instant:—

"You will find among the 230 ounces of gold forwarded by this opportunity, several nuggets, weighing from half an ounce to two ounces, and one five ounces three pennyweights, all picked up during the last week in Oakanville creek, the same, as I mentioned in my last, that formed part of my Hurdle station, and was so rich in gold. The largest nugget was dug up about twelve feet below the surface by Henry Clinton, one of the party known as Smith's. I may mention that this party, comprising Messrs. Smith, Marsden, Allan, Bennet, and Clinton, had been working together to the 10th ultimo, for a period of ten weeks, during which time they sold 165 ounces. The yield of their claim during the last week is upwards of six ounces per day. I find that several other parties have done as well, and some even better. The Andersons got nine ounces on Tuesday last; Patrick Brady, of Page's river, and two others, average six ounces per day for the last six days; a party of three adjoining W. Prothero's, got eight ounces yesterday in less than ten minutes; it appeared that in every instance where the top soil had been thrown off, the miners are being amply repaid for their previous toil. As the gold lies deep, several feet of the surface soil is thrown away without washing. This month 219 licenses were taken out the first day, but I do not know how many have since been issued. Several of the miners have left to fetch their families. I may add, that notwithstanding the very formidable ascent up the rock, the diggers have their wants supplied by stores, erected on the spot, at moderate prices."

About 200 miles farther north than the Hanging Rock, or within about 100 miles of Grafton on the Clarence River, a new and apparently very rich Gold Field has been discovered still more recently at a place called Bingara, on the Gwydir River, as the following extract will show.

Extract from the Report of Mr. Commissioner Bligh on the Bingara Diggings in the Gwydir District, about 100 miles inland from Grafton, Clarence River, July, 1852.

"I have the honour to report that I have just returned

from a renewed examination of the Bingara Gold Field in this district, and I now feel justified in stating that a Gold Field has been opened there, which is likely to be inferior in productiveness to none hitherto discovered. . . . In the heads of Courongoura and Bingara, diggings of extraordinary richness have been found. . . . A man named James Watson sold in my presence 22 ozs. of gold, including a $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. nugget, all obtained with a tin dish and a spear blade, between Saturday night and the Thursday night following; another scraped out 1 lb. avoirdupois in two days, with no other tools than an iron spoon and knife; and a party of four had in their possession about 35 ozs. One or two experienced diggers told me that they had never seen anything approaching the richness of this field. From the observations which I have made, I am confident that the extent of gold-bearing country will be very considerable, extending from the head of the Bingara down Courongoura, and up the Gwydir River for perhaps from 50 to 60 miles."

The following is a still more recent Report from the Port Phillip Diggings, where the state of things is apparently much less favourable. Bendigo is about 25 miles from Mount Alexander.

Extract from the 'Melbourne Argus,' 10th August, 1852.

"*Bendigo, August 5, 1852.*—During the last fortnight I have paid a visit to Bendigo and its neighbourhood. These hitherto wonderful diggings are now disappointing thousands. Little is doing amongst the majority of the diggers; after weeks of toil in sinking and draining many holes, they leave off disappointed, and are about returning to Melbourne. There is no doubt that Eagle Hawk, Peg Leg, Spring, Sailors', American, and some other gullies, have turned out wonderful yields, but now the neighbourhood appears to have given up its treasures, and though 50,000 at the lowest calculation, are working, still not more than one-fiftieth are paying for provisions at the present enormously high prices. Flour has had a sudden fall from £20 to £12 per bag on Bendigo, but sugar brings 1s. 6d. per lb.; tea, 3s.; butter, 4s. to 5s.; bread, 4s. the 4 lb. loaf; maize, £2 per bushel; oats, £2 10s. per ditto; bran, £1 per ditto; and hay, £6 to £7 per 100 lbs."

At present the whole population of the cotton-growing region of New South Wales, consisting of the Manning, the Hastings, the Macleay, the Clarence, the Richmond, the Tweed, the Logan, and the Brisbane rivers—all of which are available for steam navigation—does not exceed about twelve thousand; and of that population a larger proportion than

in most other parts of the colony consists of reputable and industrious families and individuals from Scotland and the north of Ireland. On the Brisbane river, which is the farthest distant, although one of the earliest settled, there is not only a regular steam communication with Sydney, from which it is five hundred miles distant, but two river steam-boats besides; the river being navigable for fifty miles, and coal of excellent quality being procurable at two different places on its banks. And so wonderful has been the prosperity of the Brisbane river district, that its export, which is now upwards of £150,000 a year, has for several years past been increasing at the rate of £20,000 a year, although its whole population does not exceed 7000 or 8000.

Now what I propose, as one of the principal objects of my present visit to the mother country, is to organize the requisite machinery for effecting an extensive progressive emigration of the industrious classes from Scotland, the north of England, and the north of Ireland, to occupy this splendid tract of country, and to turn its vast and inexhaustible resources to their proper account. And all I would ask for this purpose is the hearty co-operation of the industrious classes themselves,—including small farmers and farm servants of both sexes, shop-keepers, mechanics, operatives, &c., &c.,—in the way and on the principles I shall briefly point out; for I can assure such persons, that if they only give that co-operation zealously and efficiently, so as only to set the requisite machinery fairly agoing, they will obtain any amount of pecuniary assistance from Australia to carry out their wishes and views.

With this view I propose, in the first instance, to form a number of "Australian Emigration Societies" in the principal cities and towns of Scotland, the north of England, and the north of Ireland, on the basis indicated in the recent Act of Parliament for *Registered Friendly Societies*; one of the principles of which is that one at least of the trustees of each society shall be a magistrate or a justice of the peace, to ensure the safe custody and honest appropriation of the Society's funds. Each member of these societies will represent a capital of £20, which he or she shall undertake to pay by instalments, partly in this country and partly in Australia, for his or her passage out. N.B.—The passage, on the large scale contemplated, may be obtainable for somewhat less than this amount; but the difference will be required to maintain the necessary establishments both in this country and in Australia, and the surplus will be appropriated for the benefit of the emigrants in another way.

It will be one of the laws or principles of these societies that no individual member or members shall be eligible for

nomination for a passage out to Australia, until he or they shall have paid, either in whole or by instalments, the amount of £10 for each adult person claiming a passage on account of his or their membership. And until the requisite machinery, hereinafter to be described, shall be set up in the colony, it will be an additional rule or bye-law that the person or persons who shall pay into the Society's fund the largest amount over and above the said £10 shall be the first eligible for a passage. N.B.—Infants under one year are not reckoned in the calculation; and children between the ages of one and fourteen years, are reckoned at half an adult each.

As funds accumulate and members are nominated for a passage, the Secretary or Treasurer of each Society shall transmit the said funds with the names of the parties so nominated to an accountant (hereafter to be appointed) of recognised character and standing in the city of Glasgow, which it is proposed shall be the sole port of embarkation; and, in order to secure certain important advantages hereinafter to be indicated, the emigration will be conducted exclusively in Government Emigration Ships, under the directions of the Government Commissioners of Land and Emigration. N.B.—The Act of Parliament expressly forbids any Emigration Society of the kind I have described, from having any thing to do with land. The business of the Society is simply to facilitate emigration by raising the necessary funds for passage-money; and consequently when such funds are raised and placed in the hands of some fit and proper person for the emigration of the parties named by the Society, its business is ended as far as these parties are concerned.

But there is another Act of Parliament, called the *Australian Land Sales' Act*, the principle of which is that the waste lands of Australia shall be sold by public auction at not less than one pound per acre, and that the proceeds of such sales shall be appropriated for the promotion of emigration. Now, it will obviously be a matter of unspeakable importance to both countries to secure the benefit of this act for the nominees of such Societies as I propose; so that whatever amount they may individually pay through the Societies towards their passage out, may go at the same time towards the purchase of so much land for their future settlement in Australia. And this, I beg to state, will be quite practicable, under the law as it now stands, through the further arrangement I propose.

That arrangement, therefore, is that the funds so accumulating shall from time to time be paid by the accountant as above mentioned, into the Bank of Eng

the credit of the Government Commissioners, for the two-fold purpose of effecting the purchase of land in Australia, and securing the passage of the parties nominated by the Societies; for as the purchaser of land is authorized, under the existing regulations, to nominate a proportional number of suitable emigrants for a free passage, both of these objects can be accomplished at the same time and with the same money. In this way, it will be quite practicable, as I propose, to arrange with the different Societies that each suitable emigrant nominated for a passage by the Society to which he belongs, shall, on his arrival in Australia, be entitled to receive one acre of land for every thirty shillings he has paid to the Society for his passage. This then is the arrangement I propose.

To carry out this arrangement, without expense to the Societies, and so as to secure for them a large amount of Colonial funds to aid in the accomplishment of their general object, I propose further that a Company or Association shall be formed, and incorporated by an Act of Council, in New South Wales, to raise on the security of the land to be purchased by such Company, and to advance in aid of the different Societies in this country, funds to the extent of one half of the whole of the passage-money for the nominees of these Societies; the accountant in Glasgow, who, it is proposed, shall receive the different payments from the societies, and appropriate them as above mentioned, being merely the agent of that Company. As to the probability of forming such a Company in New South Wales, there can be no doubt whatever on the subject; provided that the Emigration Societies I propose are formed beforehand in this country, and in actual operation; for there is at present an intense desire in New South Wales to promote immigration from the mother-country of the very kind I propose, while there is plenty of money procurable in the colony to effect that object to the extent I have suggested, as soon as a feasible system is brought into operation, and a fair prospect of a continuous supply of immigrants of the right kind ensured. In short, I would say to those of the industrious classes who are desirous of emigrating to Australia, *Help yourselves*, in the first instance, by organizing all over the country such Emigration Societies as I have described: and be assured, that if you do, *Heaven will help you*, in the way I have suggested.

As the minimum or upset price of land in Australia is a pound an acre, the following are the reasons for fixing the price to the emigrant at thirty shillings, to be paid by him as passage-money:

1st, Although a pound an acre is the upset price, eligible land often costs considerably more.

2nd, The Accountant's salary and Establishment in Glasgow must be maintained from the difference between the buying and selling-price of the land; as also, in all probability, the cost of a House of accommodation for emigrants from a distance who may arrive a few days before the day of embarkation.

3rd, The cost of the Establishment in the colony, including a Board of Management and one or more surveyors.

4th, A temporary Lodging House at the port of debarkation, in New South Wales, where the emigrant may have free quarters for a month, if he requires it.

5th, The cost of conveyance for the emigrants from the port of debarkation to the particular river on which they are to settle; some of these rivers being bar-mouthed and not accessible for sea-going ships.

6th, A Model Farm for experiments in the articles of produce and the modes of cultivation suited to the soil and climate.

7th, The erection of Ginning machinery in a central locality, to clean the cotton, and bale it up for exportation.

There has also been a considerable expenditure incurred already in preparing the way for the future emigration to be expected, which must be met from the future Surplus Funds. For example, there is already a surveyor on the spot, with four years' experience in the colony, who was sent out in the year 1848 for the express purpose of facilitating the proposed operations. These items will, at first, absorb the whole of the funds accruing from the difference between the price at which the land is purchased wholesale for the Colonial Company, and the rate at which it can be disposed of by retail to the nominees of the Societies in this country. Eventually, however, there will be a considerable surplus from this source, which will be appropriated for the benefit of the emigrants, in the promotion of education or otherwise; for it is proposed that the Colonial Company shall not derive a higher profit, from the actual capital embarked in the undertaking, than ten per cent.

Working-men's Emigration Societies in this country have often failed, or been broken up through the untrustworthiness of their agents. The Imperial Parliament has most judiciously endeavoured to remedy this great evil by placing such Societies in future on a proper basis, and by providing that one at least of their trustees shall be a Justice of Peace. But there is another evil incident to such Societies which has hitherto been equally fatal to their stability, which Parliament has no power to remedy. The Society, for example, assists the emigrating member with funds, certain sums for the payment of his passage. No

is the Society to be repaid these advances? I have heard, since I returned to England, of Working-men's Emigration Societies here in London, proposing to establish agencies in Sydney, Melbourne, and half a dozen other places beyond seas, to collect the debts owing by such emigrants to their respective Societies; but such an idea is perfectly absurd,—it would take all the Societies are worth to maintain such agencies, and they would be of no value even if they were established, for it would cost far more to recover the respective amounts from the emigrants than the sum total that would be recovered. Besides, there is no necessity for such machinery under the arrangement I propose. The land system in Australia would, under the proposed arrangement, hold out the strongest inducement to the assisted emigrant to fulfil his engagement with the Society at home, without subjecting the Society to any expense for agency abroad, while it would protect the Society against any of its own members who might be disposed to act differently, if they could with safety. I will show how all this will work by a single imaginary case.

John Thomson, a small farmer or a farm-servant—perhaps a shopkeeper or mechanic—has a wife and three children, one of them an infant, and desires to emigrate to Australia. With this view, he enters No. 1 Australian Emigration Society, Glasgow, taking three shares of £20 each in the Society, one for himself, one for his wife, and one for his two boys. He has a little money in the Savings' Bank, which, after paying for his family's outfit, will enable him to pay into the Society £12 on each of his shares, or £36 altogether. This will entitle him to be nominated for a passage among the earliest of the Society's members. He is nominated accordingly, the Society advancing on his account £24 altogether, from the Society's funds, in addition to his own payment; and the whole amount, viz., £60 being placed for the purpose in the hands of the Accountant, he gets a passage out for himself and family by the first ship. In virtue moreover of the purchase of land made by the Accountant in Glasgow from the Government Land Commissioners, with the money deposited in his hands on Thomson's account, he is entitled on his arrival in the colony to 40 acres of land—as good land in all probability as any in Great Britain—as soon as he repays the £24 which the Glasgow Society has advanced for him, principal and interest. He may get the land indeed, at once, if he wishes to take it up and settle upon it; but it will only be as a tenant,—for he will get no deed for it, and he will have no power either to mortgage or sell it, till his debt is paid. In this way the emigrant will have the strongest

inducement to act honestly and honourably, while the interests of the Society will be protected and its advances repaid, without either trouble or cost to itself; for the land will bear all the necessary expenses of management both in Glasgow and in the Colony.

As to the value of such a farm to an industrious emigrant, I know two brothers from the neighbourhood of Glasgow who have a small farm of 40 acres on William's River, a navigable tributary of Hunter's River, about 130 miles from Sydney. The soil is a beautiful black mould formed by successive deposits in times of flood in past ages, and is twelve feet deep and of extraordinary fertility. On part of that land they had a heavy crop of maize or Indian corn last year, after a good crop of wheat in the same season. On another part of it they had 1600 lbs. of dried tobacco-leaf to the acre, which they had contracted to sell to a manufacturer in the colony at 5½d. per lb.; and they told me in the month of March 1851, when I called at their cottage, that if they could only get such servants as those in the west of Scotland, they could clear £500 a year from that small farm. Now there are hundreds of thousands of acres of land quite as good as this and lying entirely waste on the different rivers I have enumerated above; and if we could only get a hundred thousand of the right people—men, women, and children—from Scotland, the north of England, and the north of Ireland, to settle down progressively in this splendid tract of country, it would very soon form one of the noblest colonies in the British empire.

One of the objects which I am confident the settlement of this splendid tract of country, with a numerous and industrious population from the United Kingdom, is destined to accomplish is, that of ensuring freedom for the slave in America; for the conditions under which a British population can grow cotton in Australia, are so much more favourable than those under which it is now grown in the Slave States of America, as you will see in my small volume above referred to, that Jonathan will never be able to cope with us in the cotton market of Europe, and will be compelled, eventually, *to break every yoke, and to let the oppressed go free.*

The proportion of Scotch in the colony of New South Wales has hitherto been very small—not more than one in ten of the whole population. Now, while I am confident that there is no country in which Scotsmen, (with whom I include people from the North of England and the North of Ireland,) are likely to do so well, I am strongly of opinion that it would be greatly for the benefit of the country itself, if there were a considerably higher proportion of our countrymen.

it. I found far more Scotchmen in proportion at the gold mines than either English or Irish; and the reason was simply because they were generally industrious and thrifty people who could afford to fit themselves out for the mines, which many others could not. Romanism and Puseyism also are both rampant in New South Wales, and we only require a large infusion of such population as we are likely to get from Scotland, the North of England, and the North of Ireland, to keep them both in proper check. Besides, I am strongly of opinion that the political influence which a large immigration from these parts of the United Kingdom would exert in Australia, would be salutary in the highest degree to the country generally, and would infallibly ensure our political advancement. From my own case—placed as I was so lately at the head of its representatives by the first constituency in the colony, and receiving invitations, as I did, from several other important constituencies at the same time—you will have some idea of the political feeling of the country; for the principles I have uniformly advocated for years past, and in the advocacy of which I have been so cordially upheld by my fellow colonists, in the face of an unprincipled and thoroughly contemptible Local Government on the Downing Street Model, are those of *Universal Suffrage, Vote by Ballot, Equal Electoral Districts, Short Parliaments, No Custom House, and Freedom and Independence for Australia!* These are our *Six Points*, which we want myriads of you to help us to carry; for I am quite confident that our noble colony would then become one of the first countries in the world. We honour and respect Her Majesty the Queen as much as any of her subjects, and we love our Fatherland with as strong and heartfelt an affection. But we hold that it is as much the Law of Nature and the Ordinance of God, that a colony, which is both able and willing to manage its own affairs, should be free and independent, as it is that a son should be free from parental control when he comes of age; and with the best feelings, therefore, towards our Queen and our Mother-country, and with fervent prayers for their prosperity, we ask our freedom and independence accordingly, and we will never be satisfied with anything less.

It is my intention, during the present winter, to deliver a series of lectures in the principal cities and towns of Scotland, the North of England, and the North of Ireland, on Emigration to Australia generally, particularly with a view to the formation of a series of such societies as I have described; of which the times and the places will be duly advertised beforehand. In the meantime, I remain, fellow countrymen and friends,

Your sincere well-wisher,

JOHN DUNMORE LANG, D.D.

POSTSCRIPT.

The following Extract from the *Moreton Bay Courier*, of November 29th, 1851, giving an account of a public meeting which was held in the town of Brisbane, Moreton Bay, on the 27th of the same month, will show what a deep interest the actual inhabitants of the cotton-growing region in New South Wales take in the promotion of emigration from the mother country to that region. The meeting was both numerous and respectable: Dr. Hobbs, a medical practitioner in the town of Brisbane, being in the chair.

Mr. W. M. Smith (a Scotch emigrant from Glasgow) begged to propose the third resolution, or rather series of resolutions. He commented on the several passages as he read them, declaring his opinion of their truth and justice, so far as his own experience extended. He expressed his full conviction that if Dr. Lang was supported in his endeavours, they might hope to receive a thousand immigrants for every one he had already sent. The resolution was as follows:—

“That, in the opinion of this meeting, it has been satisfactorily demonstrated that the soil and climate of the Moreton Bay district of New South Wales—extending from the 30th parallel of south latitude to the tropic of Capricorn—are admirably adapted for the growth of cotton of superior quality for the manufactures of England.

“That there is a boundless extent of land of the first quality for this species of cultivation on the banks of rivers in this district available for steam navigation.

“That the climate of this district has been found peculiarly salubrious, and such as to enable the European labourer to engage in all departments of field labour with perfect safety.

“That there is every reason to believe that the growth of cotton in this district would be highly remunerative to the British practical farmer, provided that suitable arrangements were made for having the ginning process conducted in central localities by persons devoting themselves exclusively to that department of labour.

“That the present rate of freight for sheep's wool from Sydney to London, is actually lower than the usual rate for cotton wool from New Orleans to Liverpool, and that there is every reason to believe that this low rate of freight will be continued, from the greatly increased emigration that will now take place to the gold fields of Australia.

“That, in the opinion of this meeting, all that is necessary to render this district a cotton-growing country on a large scale, and to enable it to compete successfully in the home market with the slave-grown produce of the United States, is the influx and settlement of a numerous, industrious, &

virtuous British agricultural population, like the generality of the emigrants sent out by the Rev. Dr. Lang, in the years 1848 and 1849, per the ships *Fortitude*, *Chasely*, and *Lima*.

"That in the present excitement produced by the discovery of extensive gold fields in the interior of New South Wales Proper, it would be hopeless to attempt to induce an agricultural population of this description to settle permanently in this part of the territory, for the growth of cotton, and other semi-tropical productions, unless it had some hold upon the land—some present or prospective property in the soil.

"That it is, therefore, the decided opinion of this meeting that any arrangements that would enable persons of this class, and especially married persons, paying a portion of their passage-money, to obtain an equivalent for such payment in land, would be highly beneficial to this district, and would form a sufficient inducement for small farmers to settle permanently in it, for the growth of cotton, and other articles of semi-tropical produce.

"That the Rev. Dr. Lang, recently one of the representatives of the City of Sydney in the Legislative Council of New South Wales, having signified his intention to proceed shortly to England, and having undertaken to submit the foregoing resolution to the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, and to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, this meeting hereby desires to express its grateful sense of the important and inestimable service already rendered to this district by Dr. Lang in the matter of immigration, and earnestly recommends Dr. Lang and his object to the favourable consideration of the Right Honourable Secretary, and the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, in the hope that some arrangements may be found practicable for directing a numerous, industrious, and virtuous British agricultural population to this district, to develop its vast resources in the growth of raw produce for the manufactures of England."

Mr. Child, a respectable practical farmer, (from Essex, in England,) seconded the motion, and bore testimony to the salubrity of the climate, and the perfect healthiness of field labour. He had had considerable experience, having since his arrival here from England, been engaged in agricultural pursuits, and having worked as hard himself as any person ought to do. He could declare that after labouring on his farm on the hottest days of our summer, he has felt less fatigue than he had frequently suffered after a hard day's physical exertion in England. (Cheers.) As regarded the growth of cotton, although he was unacquainted with the exact processes of preparing it for the manufacturer, he knew that it grew here with the greatest luxuriance. Mr.

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